



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 30, 2019

Case No. F-2019-02012
Segments: IPS-0001iC1iC2; IPS-0002iC1;
IPS-0002iC2; S/ES-0004; S/ES-0005
IPS-0001*07424; IPS-0003*07424
IPS-0007*07424; IPS-0009*07424
IPS-0011*07424

Amrit Singh
Director, Accountability, Liberty
& Transparency Division
Open Society Justice Initiative
224 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019
Amrit.singh@opensocietyfoundations.org

Dear Ms. Singh:

As we noted in our letter dated September 7, 2019, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (the "FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department completed the review of over 5,000 pages of potentially responsive records and has identified 37 additional documents responsive to your request. Upon review, we have determined 7 may be released in full, 27 documents may be released in part, and 3 documents must be withheld in full pursuant to FOIA Exemptions 1, 5 and 6, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(1), (b)(5) and (b)(6).

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. In some cases, two or more exemptions may apply to the same document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

The processing of your request is ongoing, and we will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Aronoff, at (212) 637-2697 or peter.aronoff@usdoj.gov, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Natasha Teleanu, at (212) 637-2528 or natasha.teleanu@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, F-2019-02012, and the civil action number, 19-cv-00234, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

Susan Weetman
Deputy Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

RELEASE IN
PART B1, B6~~CONFIDENTIAL~~DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY: Anthony
Benesch, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS, 08/06/19

MRN: 18 CAIRO 855
 Date/DTG: Dec 10, 2018 / 100828Z DEC 18
 From: AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
 E.O.: 13526
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ETRD, EINV, ECON, AU-1, EG
 Reference: A) 18 CAIRO 833
 B) 18 LIBYA EXTERNAL OFFICE TUNIS 323
 C) 18 CAIRO 893
 D) 18 CAIRO 607
 E) 18 LIBYA EXTERNAL OFFICE TUNIS 291
 F) 16 CAIRO 1039

Pass Line: AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
 Subject: Sub-Saharan Africa, Libya Figure Prominently in Egypt's November
 Diplomatic Calendar

1. ~~(C)~~ Summary: Egyptian diplomacy in November featured the steady drumbeat of outreach to sub-Saharan Africa and engagement on Libya. The second GoE-hosted World Youth Forum (WYF, Ref A) and an AU summit provided opportunities for Egyptian outreach to leaders from that region and elsewhere ahead of Egypt's 2019 AU presidency. [REDACTED]

B1

Additionally, Sisi hosted Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman (MBS) in Cairo for his second visit since March [REDACTED]

End Summary.

World Youth Forum and Arab-African Relations

2. ~~(SBU)~~ On the margins of the second GoE-hosted WYF in Sharm al Sheikh November 3–6, Sisi and Shoukry met with regional leaders, including President of the Palestinian Authority (PA) Mahmoud Abbas, Sudanese President Omar al Bashir, Jordanian Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II, and Commander of the Bahrain Royal Guard Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad al Khalifa.

3. ~~(SBU)~~ The WYF emphasized African issues and Arab-African cooperation. At

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

the gathering, Shoukry participated in a panel discussion entitled “The 2063 Agenda: The Africa We Want,” a discussion of comprehensive development in the continent. On the margins of the WYF, Shoukry met separately with Liberian FM Jebhezondar Vendelli and with Omar Dheifallah, chairman of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Focal Points Committee, with whom he discussed APRM-GoE cooperation and the African Development Agenda 2063. Among the results of the WYF, Sisi designated Aswan as the capital for African youth in 2019, directed the National Academy for Youth Training and Rehabilitation to train Arab and African youth on leadership skills, and launched a youth-oriented Egypt-Africa digital technology initiative. These efforts reinforced the GoE’s expanded focus on African diplomacy.

Sub-Saharan Africa

4. ~~(SBU)~~ On November 13, Shoukry travelled to Addis Ababa to participate in an extraordinary AU summit to review AU institutional and financial reform as well as the mandate of the AU Development Agency. On November 15, he participated in the AU Executive Council’s extraordinary session, which was held at the ministerial level. Shoukry addressed financial and administrative reform of the AU Commission and urged reconsideration of the Commission’s leadership structure as Egypt gears up to chair the AU in 2019.

5. ~~(SBU)~~ On November 15, on the margins of the AU summit, Shoukry met separately with several African counterparts, including FM Kalla Ankourao of Niger, FM Richard Sazibra of Rwanda, FM Ezekiel Nbejeira of Burundi, and FM Worknew Gebeyehu of Ethiopia. Shoukry and Ankourao discussed opportunities for Egypt and Niger to increase bilateral economic ties and for the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development to conduct capacity-building programs in Niger. Their agenda also included scholarships for Nigerien students to attend Egyptian universities, the proposed African Free Trade Agreement, and counter-terrorism efforts in the Sahel. Shoukry and Sazibra discussed Rwanda’s efforts to improve the efficiency of the AU and Egypt’s plans regarding AU reform. Shoukry and Nbejeira discussed Egyptian assistance in establishing three new medical centers in Burundi, shipment of liquefied metal from Egypt to Bujumbura, Egyptian training programs for Burundian management personnel, and cooperation among Nile Basin countries. In his meeting with Gebeyehu, Shoukry called for speeding up implementation of decisions made at the May meeting of the Egyptian, Ethiopian, and Sudanese ministers regarding the GERD.

6. ~~(SBU)~~ At the November 26 inauguration of the Cairo International Exhibition

and Conference on Telecommunication and Information Technology, Sisi announced the launch of the “Egypt, Africa” initiative, one of the WYF outcomes. Sisi said the initiative aimed to train more than 10,000 Egyptian and other African youth in digital technology and encourage the establishment of more than 100 digital-application companies.

Libya

7. ~~(C)~~ In the run-up to the Palermo Conference on Libya, the GoE issued a statement regarding a November 10 telephone call from Italian PM Giuseppe Conte to Sisi, describing the conversation generically as a discussion of bilateral relations and regional issues.

B1

8. ~~(SBU)~~ On the margins of the Palermo conference, Sisi, Conte, President Beji Caid Essebsi of Tunisia, Algerian PM Ahmed Ouyahia, European Commission President Donald Tusk, French FM Jean-Yves Le Drian, UN envoy for Libya Ghassan Salamé, Libyan PM Fayez al-Sarraj, and Haftar met with Russian PM Dmitry Medvedev. Libya was also a key topic in Sisi’s November 13 bilateral meeting with Conte. On November 29, Shoukry joined the foreign ministers of Libya’s other neighboring countries in Khartoum to discuss efforts to resolve the Libyan crisis, bookending a heavy month of Libya-focused diplomacy.

Qatar, Iran, and Turkey

9. ~~(C)~~ On November 11, the Egyptian and Bahraini foreign ministries reaffirmed

the Arab Quartet's standing 13 demands of Qatar. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] The two ministries also condemned the Houthis' firing of ballistic missiles on Saudi Arabia. According to a GoE statement, on November 12 Shoukry met in Manama with King Hamad bin Essa of Bahrain to discuss "the importance of combating any foreign or regional interference in the affairs of Arab countries," [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] Sisi received Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in Cairo November 26–27 for the second time in eight months as part of the Crown Prince's first trip abroad since the Khashoggi murder.

Serbia

10. (C) FM Shoukry capped off the GoE's diplomatic outreach on Africa and Libya with a November 27–29 stop in Belgrade, where he met with Serbian political leaders, including President Aleksandar Vucic. [REDACTED]

B1

Signature: Goldberger

Classified By: Name: Thomas H. Goldberger, Title: CDA

Office: EXEC

Agency: State

Derived From: DSCG 17-1

Declassify On: 2028/12/10

Drafted By: CAIRO: [REDACTED]

Cleared By: [REDACTED]

POL: [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Released By: CAIRO: [REDACTED]

Info:

PRISTINA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; BELGRADE,
AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; MOSCOW, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE;

B6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ABACUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;
AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA,
AMCONSUL
XMT: BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA MEMBASSY

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RELEASE IN PART
B1, B6



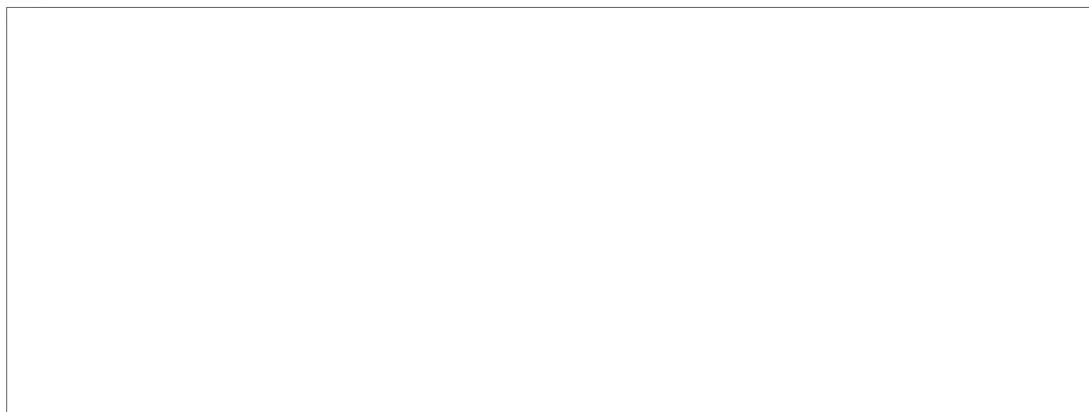
MRN: 18 CAIRO 769
Date/DTG: Nov 05, 2018 / 050705Z NOV 18
From: AMEMBASSY CAIRO
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, OVIP, PHUM, EG
Captions: CODEL
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
Correction Reason: No CODEL caption in original.
Subject:

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY: Anthony
Benesch, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS, 08/06/19

[redacted] to StaffDel
Solomon

B1

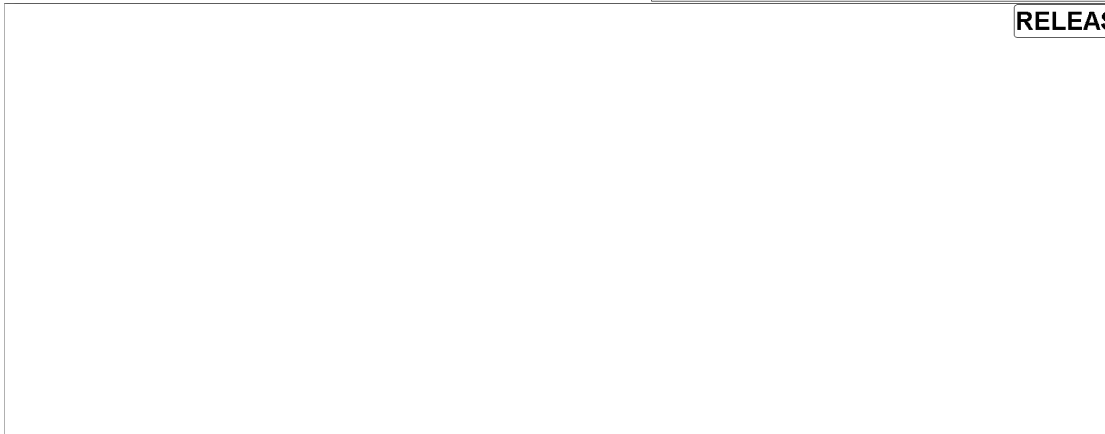
RELEASE IN PART B1, B6



2. (C) In an October 28 meeting with StaffDel Solomon, [redacted]

B1

RELEASE IN PART B1, B6



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

B1

RELEASE IN PART B1, B6

6. (U) StaffDel Solomon cleared this cable.

Signature: Shea

Classified By: Name: [REDACTED] Title: Deputy PolCouns

B6

Office: POL

Agency: DoS

Derived From: DSCG 17-1

Declassify On: 2043/11/01

Drafted By: CAIRO: [REDACTED]

B6

Cleared By: POL: [REDACTED]

Approved By: CDA: [REDACTED]

Released By: CAIRO [REDACTED]

Info: ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA,
AMCONSUL

XMT: BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RELEASE IN PART
B1,B5,B7(E),B7(F),B7(C),B6,B3

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~
Sensitive



DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY:
Anthony Benesch, Senior Reviewer,
A/GIS/IPS, 08/06/19

MRN: 18 RIYADH 777
Date/DTG: Oct 22, 2018 / 221323Z OCT 18
From: AMEMBASSY RIYADH
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: ASEC, AREC, ATPW, TRSY, SA
Captions: SENSITIVE, NOFORN
Reference: A) 18 STATE 5491
B) 18 CIA WASHINGTON DC 10205898
Subject: Mission Saudi Arabia Emergency Action Committee October 21

1. ~~(S/BU)~~ On October 21, 2018, CDA chaired a Mission Emergency Action Committee (EAC) meeting to discuss the Secretary of Treasury's planned visit to Riyadh on October 22-23 in accordance with Department guidance requiring an EAC prior to any visit from a Cabinet-level official or official of similar rank (ref A). Also discussed during this EAC were the Marine Corps Ball and other upcoming special events.

2. ~~(S/NF)~~ [redacted] RSO expressed confidence in host nation ability and willingness to protect VIPs. The EAC agreed that the fall-out from the Khashoggi killing is unlikely to result in public protests or otherwise impact the visit.

B1
B7(F)

3. (S/NF) [redacted]

B1
B7(F)

4. (S/NF) [redacted]

B1
B7(F)

B7(F)
B1

[Redacted]

5. (S//NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

B1
B7(F)

6. [Redacted]

B5
B7(F)

7. [Redacted]

B7(E)

8. (U) Point of contact for this message is ARSO [Redacted] 11-488-3800 ext. [Redacted]
[Redacted]

B7(C)
B6

Signature: STRONG

Classified By: Name: [Redacted] Title: Senior RSO
Office: RSO
Agency: DOS

B6
B7(C)

Derived From: DSCG 17-1

Declassify On: 2043/10/22

Drafted By: ARSO: [Redacted]

B6
B7(C)

Cleared By: CONS: [Redacted]
SRSO [Redacted] (Riyadh)

[Redacted]
MGMT: [Redacted]

B3
B6
B7(C)

PAS: [Redacted]
POL-MIL [Redacted]

Approved By:
Released By:
Info:

Treasury: [redacted]

DAO: [redacted]

CDA: Strong, Martina A

RIYADH: [redacted]

[redacted] ROUTINE;

[redacted] ROUTINE; [redacted] ROUTINE;

[redacted] ROUTINE

[redacted] ROUTINE;

[redacted] ROUTINE;

B6
B7(C)

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

B6

B6

B6

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Sensitive

Declassification Authority: Leonard Kusnitz,
Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS, 09/03/2019

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~
Sensitive

RELEASE IN PART B1, B6, B7C



NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS
REDACTED

MRN: 18 ABU DHABI 945
Date/DTG: Dec 27, 2018 / 271338Z DEC 18
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ECON, EINV, OVIP, AE
Captions: ~~NOFORN, SENSITIVE~~
Subject: UAE: Scen setter for Secretary Pompeo's Visit

(U) Summary

1. ~~(S//NF)~~ Mr. Secretary, Mission UAE warmly welcomes you back to Abu Dhabi.

NR

2. ~~(S//NF)~~ **Summary Continued:** The period since your June visit has been eventful, dominated recently by the continuing repercussions of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi

NR

End summary.

(S) Saudi Arabia: Support for MbS Undimmed Despite Khashoggi

3. ~~(S)~~ The October 2 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi continues to reverberate. The UAE has been adamant in its support for Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS), [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] MbS' first foreign trip after the murder was to the UAE, where he received a public and prominent embrace from MbZ and the Al Nahyan clan along with Dubai's ruling family and a collection of government ministers and high officials

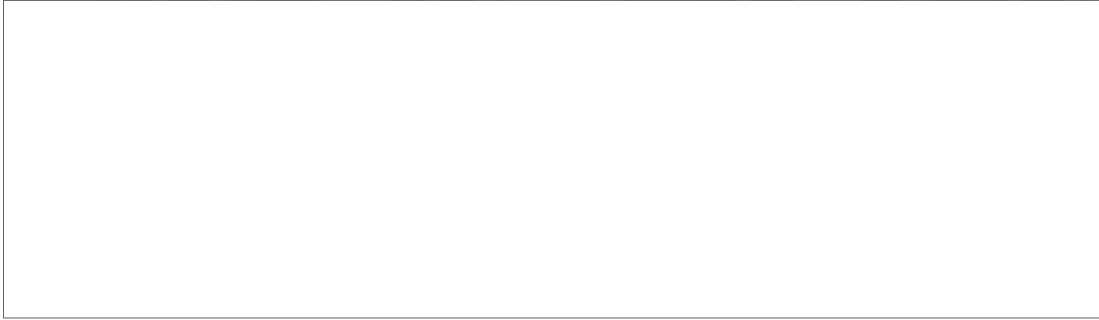
4. ~~(S)~~ Emirati officials have referred to the murder as an extremely regrettable event. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] UAEG officials were publically supportive of the Global Magnitsky sanctions implemented by Treasury on November 15 against 17 Saudi officials purported to be involved in the killing of Khashoggi. [REDACTED]

B1

NR

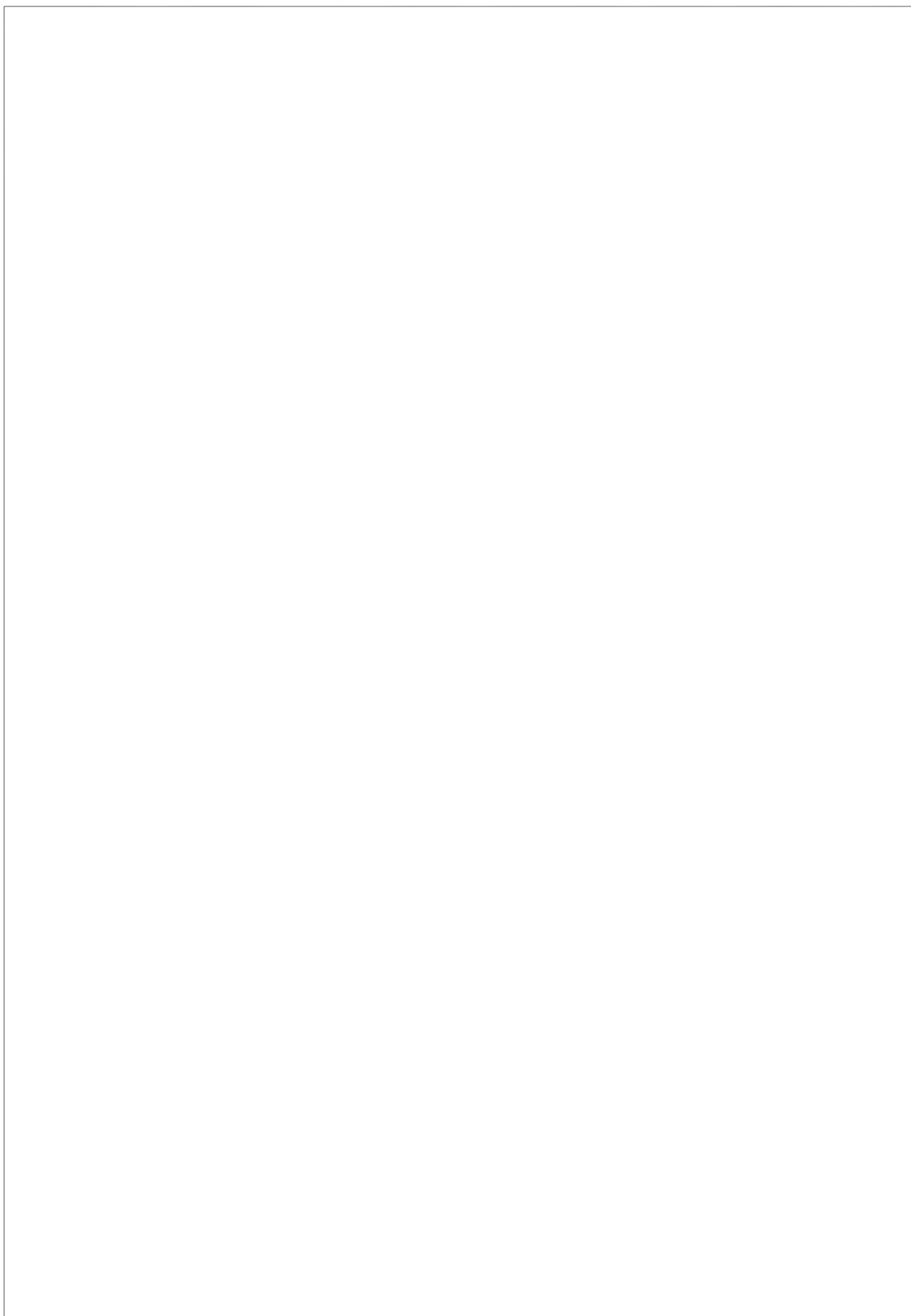


NR



NR

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~



NR

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~



NR

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

(SBU) Bilateral Military Ties: Cornerstone of the Relationship

[REDACTED]

NR

17. ~~(S//NF)~~ [REDACTED] NR

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The FMS portfolio, however, has been negatively impacted by an increasing number of Congressional holds, many related to concerns over the conflict in Yemen. Given the number of questions currently being raised in the Senate about Yemen, particularly in the aftermath of the Khashoggi murder, we anticipate the number of notifications (and holds) could expand. [REDACTED]

NR

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NR

NR



Signature: BONDY

Classified By: Name: Steven C. Bondy, Title: Charge d'Affaires
Office: U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi

Derived From: DSCG 17-1

Declassify On: 2028/12/27

Drafted By: POL:Doutrich, Jack T

Cleared By: EXEC:Steuer, William

Econ:

PAS:Ziyadeh, Nadia J

Treas:

FCS:Bruns, Thomas S

RSO:

Dubai Pol Econ:Carden, Dayle R

B6

B6

B7(C)

Approved By: EXEC:Bondy, Steven C

Released By:

Info: DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; COOPERATION COUNCIL
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE
XMT: SANAA, AMEMBASSY

B6

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Sensitive

Declassification Authority: Leonard
Kusnitz, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS,
09/03/2019

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Sensitive

DECONTROLLED

RELEASE IN PART B1, B6



NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS
REDACTED

MRN: 19 ABU DHABI 55
Date/DTG: Jan 24, 2019 / 240830Z JAN 19
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MARR, MASS, YE, IR, QA, CN, SY, RU, AF, AE
Captions: NOFORN, SENSITIVE
Subject: UAE: Scen setter for the Visit of ARCENT Commanders Garrett and Ferrell

(U) Summary

1. ~~(S//NF)~~ LTG Garrett and MG Ferrell, Mission UAE warmly welcomes you to Abu Dhabi. [REDACTED]

NR

2. ~~(S//NF)~~ Recent events have been dominated by the continuing repercussions of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi [REDACTED]

NR

NR

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

[REDACTED]

NR

[REDACTED]

End summary.

NR

[REDACTED]

NR

~~(S)~~ Saudi Arabia: Support for MbS Undimmed Despite Khashoggi

6. ~~(S)~~ The October 2 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi continues to reverberate across the region. The UAE has been adamant in its support for Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud (MbS), [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] MbS' first foreign trip after the murder was to UAE, where he received a public and prominent embrace from MbZ, the extended Al Nahyan clan, Dubai's ruling family, and many other government ministers and high officials.

7. ~~(S)~~ Emirati officials have referred to the murder as an extremely regrettable event. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] UAEG

officials were also publically supportive of the Global Magnitsky sanctions implemented by Treasury on November 15 against 17 Saudi officials purported to be involved in the killing of Khashoggi.

NR

[REDACTED]

NR



~~SECRET//NOFORN~~



NR

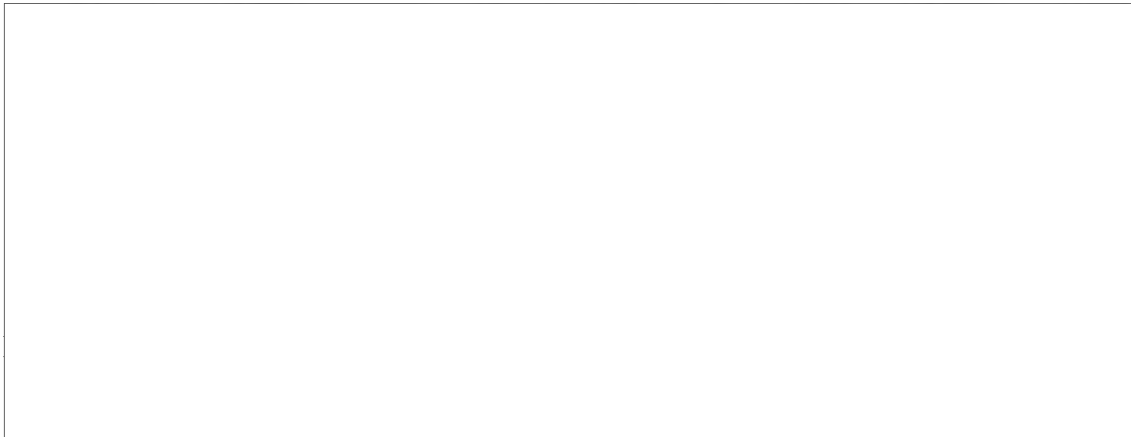
~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~



NR

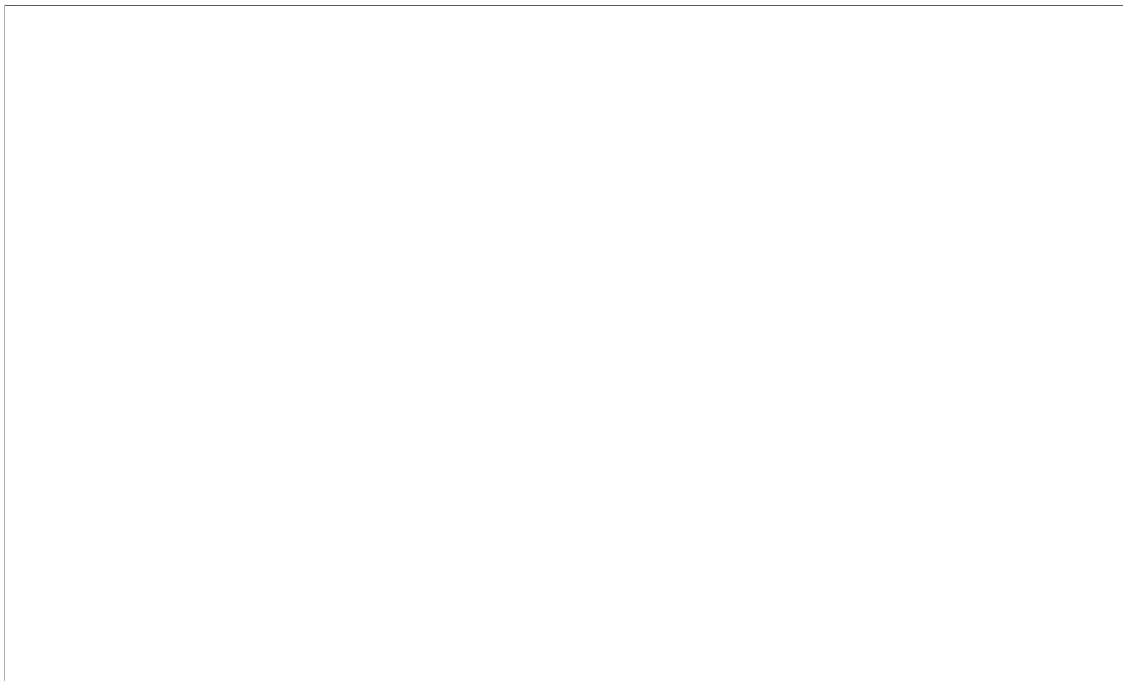
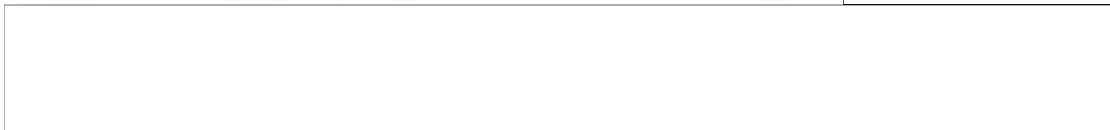
~~SECRET//NOFORN~~



NR

20. ~~(S//NF)~~ The FMS portfolio, however, has been negatively impacted by an increasing number of Congressional holds, many related to concerns over the war in Yemen. B1

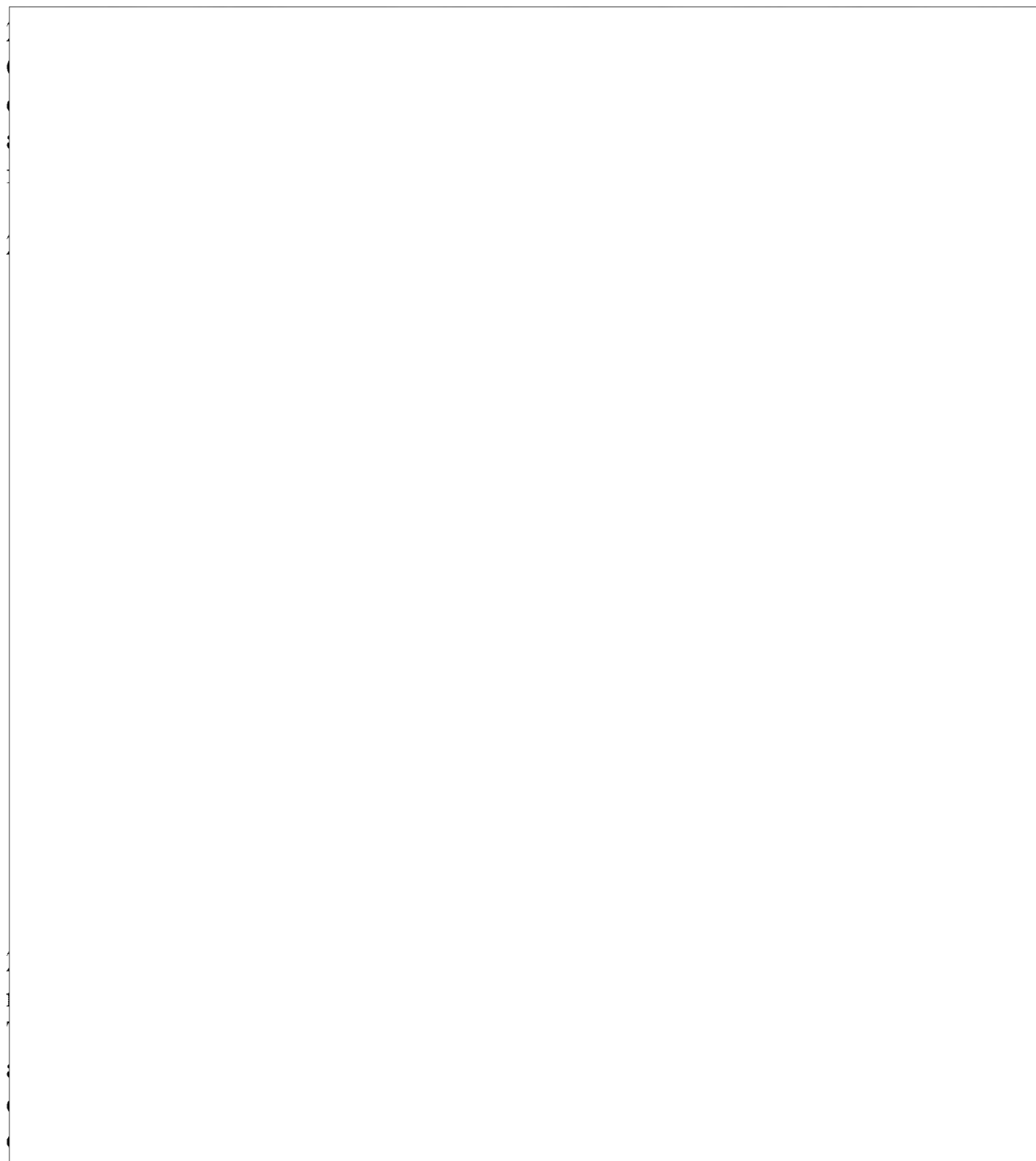
Given the number of questions currently being raised in the Senate about the Yemen war, particularly in the aftermath of the Khashoggi murder, we anticipate notifications (and holds) could expand.



NR

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

NR



Signature: Lodinsky

Classified By: Name: Christopher R. Dilworth, Title: Deputy Political Counselor
Office: U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi
Agency: Department of State

Derived From: DSCG 17-1

Declassify On: 2029/01/24

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Drafted By: POL-MIL:Dilworth, Christopher R
Cleared By: POL:Doutrich, Jack T

ECON:[REDACTED]

EXEC:Dilworth, Alison E

DAO:[REDACTED]

ODP:[REDACTED]

PAS:[REDACTED]

TREAS:[REDACTED]

Approved By: EXEC:Lodinsky, Jeffrey P

Released By: ABU DHABI:Dilworth, Christopher R

Info: OSD WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; HQ USCENTCOM WILL AFB
FL ROUTINE; C WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY
COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; COOPERATION
COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE
XMT: SANAA, AMEMBASSY

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~
Sensitive

B6

B6

B6

B6

B6

RELEASE IN FULL

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~
DECONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

(SBU) Background for the Secretary's Meeting with Senator Chris Coons

~~(SBU)~~ **Global Magnitsky:** In October, 2018, then-SFRC Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Menendez, Senator Graham, and Senator Leahy sent the President a letter requesting that he “make a determination on the imposition of sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act with respect to any foreign person responsible for such a violation related to Mr. Khashoggi.” In November 2018, the Department made public that sanctions would be imposed on 17 Saudi individuals deemed to be responsible for the death of Khashoggi. Senators in subsequent letters asked for a specific determination as to whether Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) was responsible for the murder of Khashoggi. The Department on February 8 referenced the 17 individuals on whom sanctions were imposed and noted the Administration's continued commitment to bring to justice those responsible for Khashoggi's death. The response was very poorly received; in the view of a majority of SFRC Members, the Administration failed to comply with the specific request to determine the involvement of MBS in Khashoggi's murder, and some have accused the Administration of violating the Global Magnitsky Act.

NR

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

201831774

RELEASE IN PART
B1,B5,NR

THIS BINDER CONTAINS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

The Secretary's Trip to Brussels



December 3-4, 2018

THIS BINDER CONTAINS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Place holder

Original Doc name: (r_492948) 201831774

The following page numbers were not
relevant and therefore removed.

Pg. 1-3 & 9-76

~~SECRET//ORCON-USGOV/NOFORN~~

~~(SECRET//NOFORN when separated from attachments)~~

(SBU) The Secretary's Meeting with
Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu
Mr. Prime Minister [*Ben-JAH-min Net-an-YA-hoo*]

LAST INTERACTION: You last spoke to PM Netanyahu on November 29.

PARTICIPANTS

United States

The Secretary

TBD

Israel

Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister

TBD

KEY OBJECTIVES

[Empty box for key objectives]

B1

~~SECRET//ORCON-USGOV/NOFORN~~

~~(SECRET//NOFORN when separated from attachments)~~

Classified by: NEA Acting Assistant Secretary David M. Satterfield

E.O. 13526, Reasons:

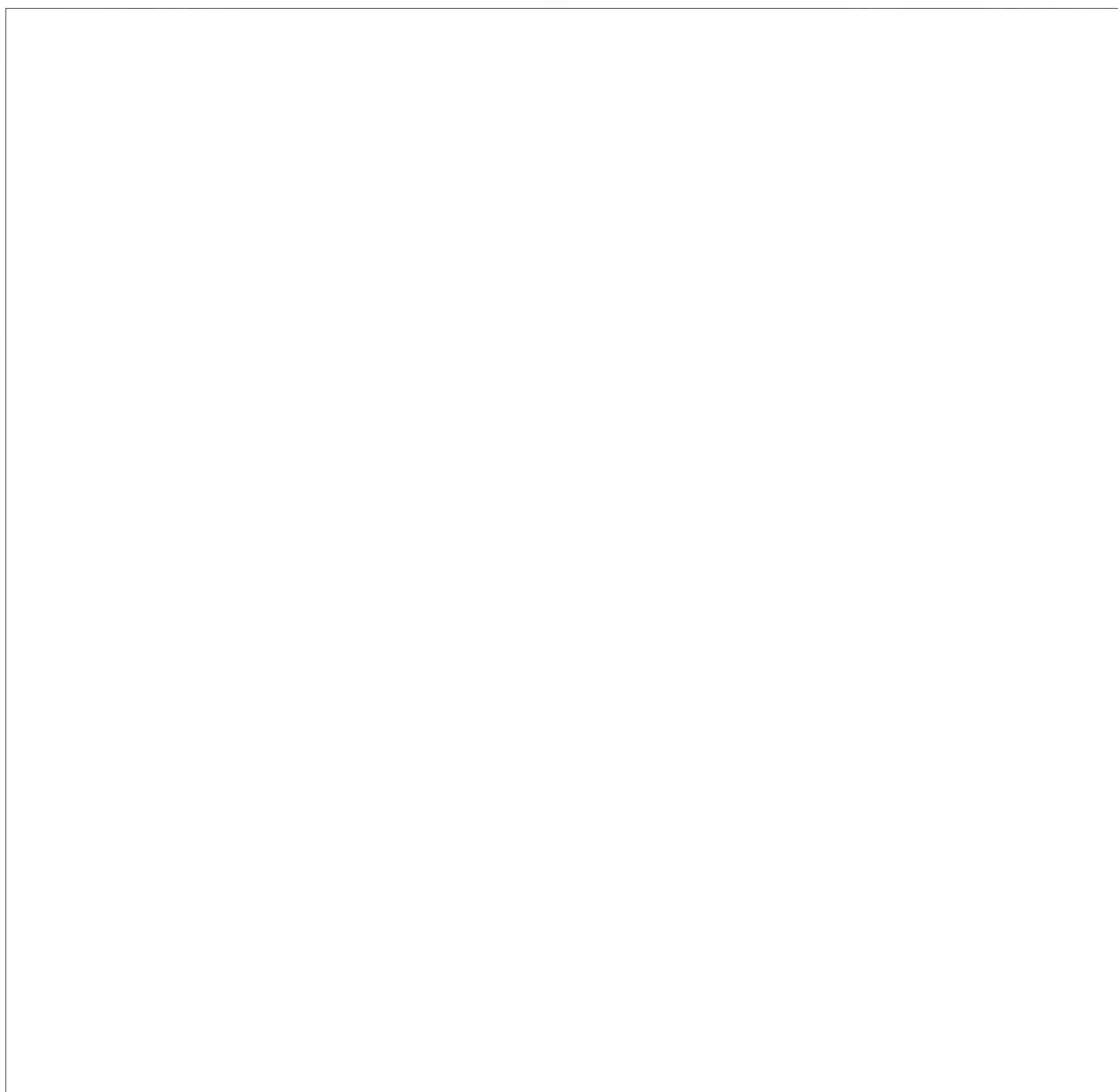
Declassify on: November 30, 2043

B1

~~SECRET//ORCON-USGOV/NOFORN~~
~~(SECRET//NOFORN when separated from attachments)~~

-2-

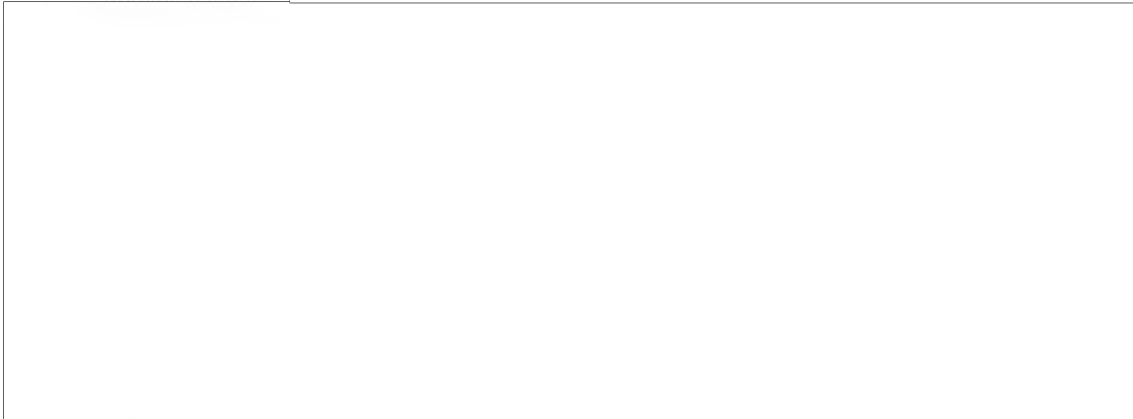
NR



4. (SBU) Saudi Arabia:

[Redacted]

B5



~~SECRET//ORCON-USGOV/NOFORN~~
~~(SECRET//NOFORN when separated from attachments)~~

~~SECRET//ORCON-USGOV/NOFORN~~
~~(SECRET//NOFORN when separated from attachments)~~

3

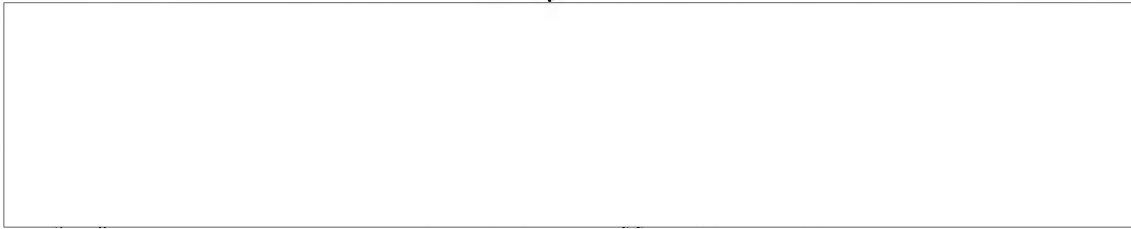
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~~SECRET//ORCON-USGOV/NOFORN~~
~~(SECRET//NOFORN when separated from attachments)~~

~~SECRET//ORCON-USGOV//NOFORN~~
~~(SECRET//NOFORN when separated from attachments)~~

~3~



NR



NR

~~SECRET//ORCON-USGOV//NOFORN~~
~~(SECRET//NOFORN when separated from attachments)~~

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

(SBU) Background for the Secretary's Meeting with
Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu

NR



~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classified by: NEA Acting Assistant Secretary David M. Satterfield
E.O. 13526, Reasons:
Declassify on: November 30, 2043

B1

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Lochbryn, Tracy (Riyadh)
Sent: Mon, 29 Oct 2018 07:45:07 -0400
To: Lochbryn, Tracy (Riyadh)
Subject: Amb Sales Riyadh Travel External Mtgs BCL PD Edits
Attachments: Amb Sales Riyadh Travel External Mtgs BCL PD Edits.docx

07424-IPS03-000041

RELEASE IN PART
B5,B6

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

(SBU) CT Coordinator Nathan A. Sales' Meetings with
Saudi Government Officials
November 6-7, 2018

DECONTROLLED

B5

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

07424-IPS03-000042

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

- 2 -

B5

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

07424-IPS03-000043

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

- 3 -

B5

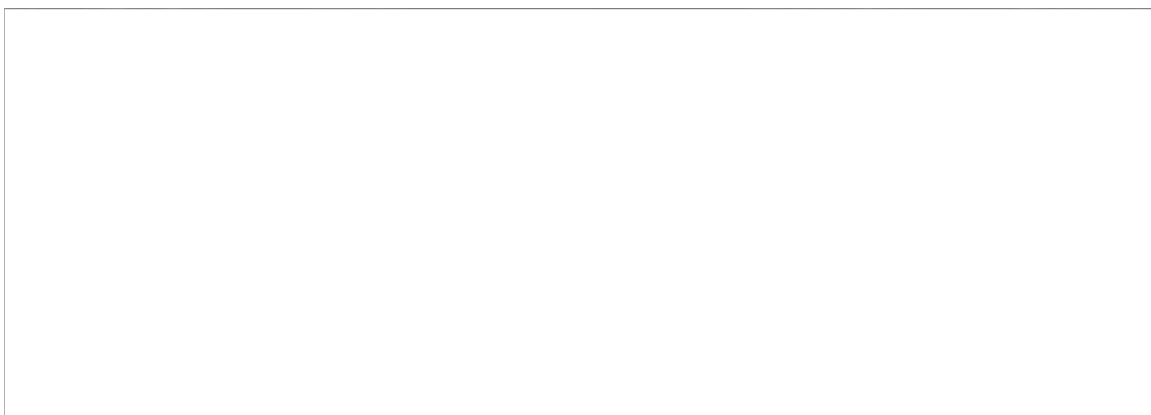
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- 4 -

B5



Attachment(s):

Biographic Information:

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

07424-IPS03-000045

Approved: CT/FO: Alina Romanowski

Drafted: CT/SCAN- ext. 7-9390 and cell:

B6

Cleared: CT/SCAN:
CT/SPI:
CT/TPOP:
CT/CTFD:
CT/P:
CT/CVE:
CT/Detentions:
CT/D-ISIS:
CT/MA:
CT/HS:
CT/TSI:
NEA/ARP:
Embassy Riyadh:

B6

07424-IPS03-000046

RELEASE IN
PART B5,B6

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 21 Nov 2018 22:47:20 +0000
To: Tueller, Matthew H
Cc: Munir, Junaid Jay;Wadhwani, Rajeev M;NEA-ARP-Yemen Desk-DL;Davis, Eugenia W;Caruso, Andrew N
Subject: AMB Nominee Henzel - draft brief and Q&A
Attachments: 2018-11 Henzel Testimony Draft.docx, Henzel Q-A testimony SFRC Nov 2018-md.docx, S Hill briefing - Yemen points.docx

B6

Hello Ambassador Tueller,

CDA Henzel asked us to share with you a draft of his statement and Q&As for his Hill confirmation. Would you please take a look at the attached and let us know if you have any concerns? We are hoping to send around for wider laterals on Friday.

I am also attaching Q&A we drafted for the S Hill brief, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

B5

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving,

[REDACTED]
Yemen Desk Officer
U.S. Department of State
deBruynVR@state.gov | 202.647.6558

B6

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

07424-IPS03-000021

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASE IN PART B5,NR

Chris Henzel
Ambassador-designate to Yemen
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
November 2018

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NR

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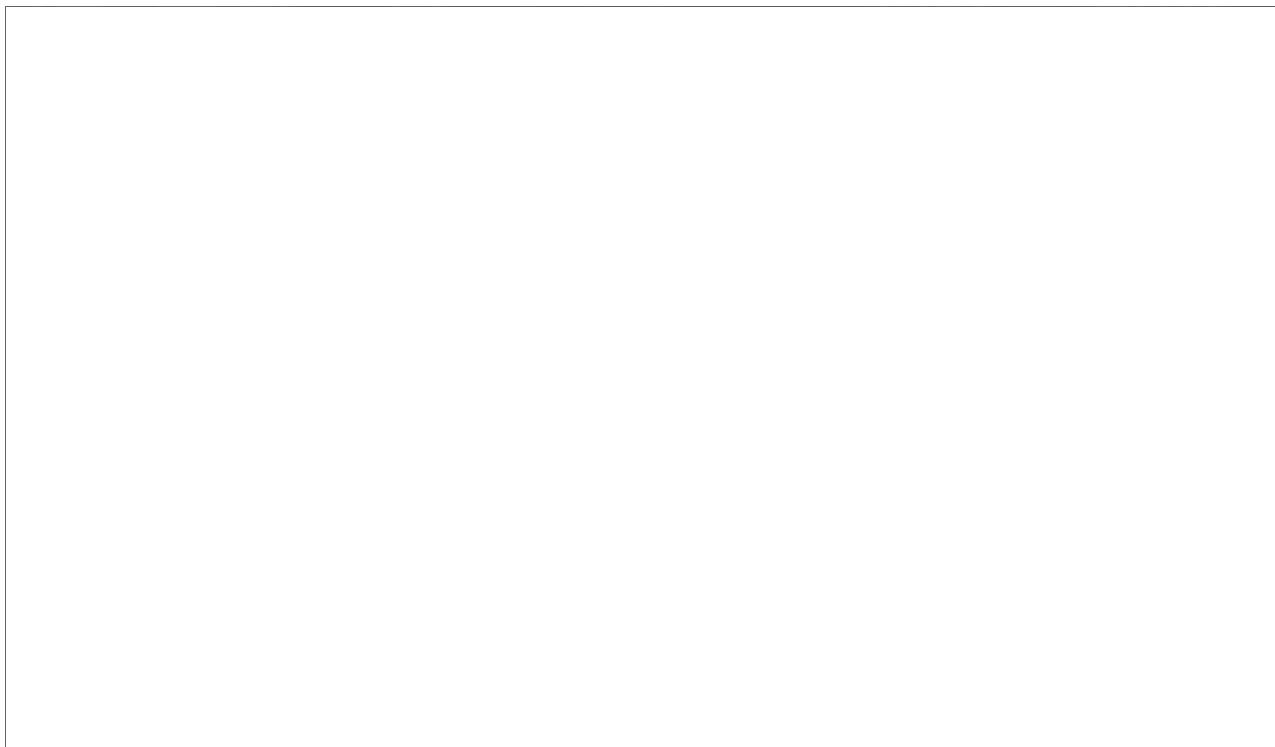
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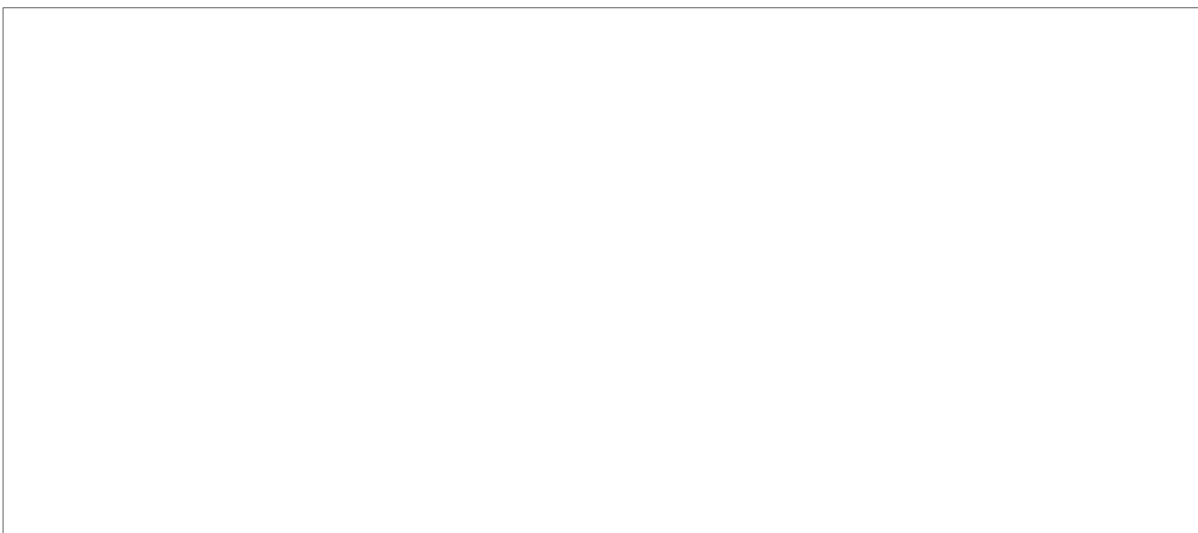
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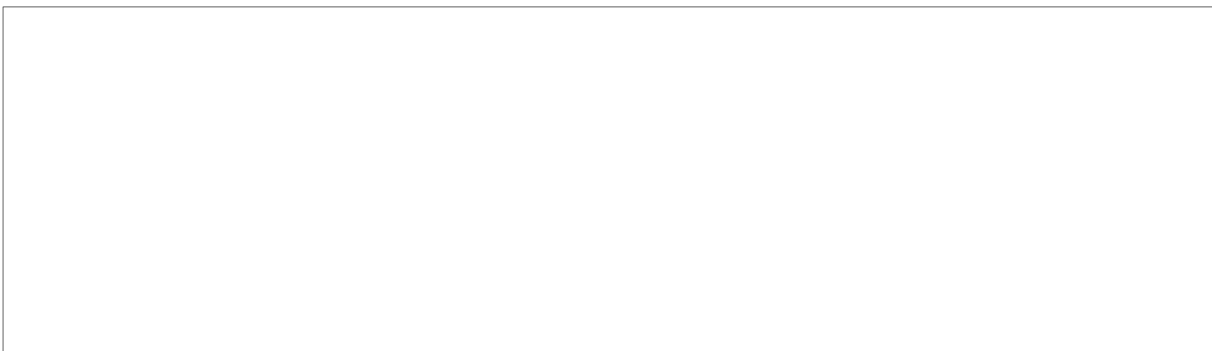
SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED



NR



B5



NR

07424-IPS03-000033

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

NR

07424-IPS03-000034

RELEASE IN PART B5

From: Lenderking, Timothy A
Sent: Thu, 14 Mar 2019 03:42:51 +0000
To: Hale, David;Kenna, Lisa D;Satterfield, David M;Polaschik, Joan A
Cc: Pounds, Timothy J;Wadhwani, Rajeev M;Pratt, Jonathan G;Zittle, Aleksandra P
Subject: Additional Khashoggi Points for S

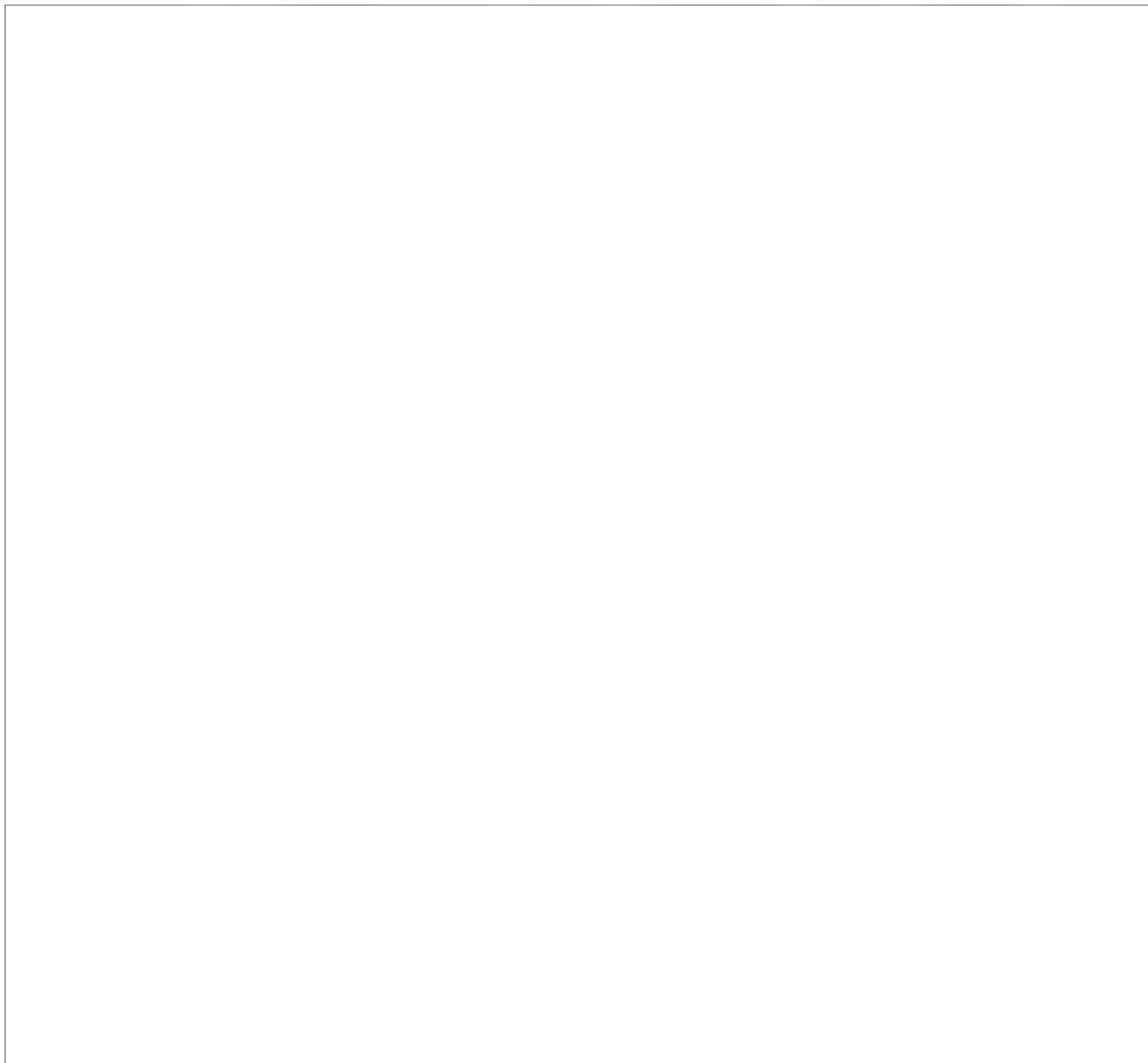
DECONTROLLED

Here are some additional points on Khashoggi that might be useful to S tomorrow during his meeting with the SFRC.

B5

07424-IPS03-000001

B5



Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

07424-IPS03-000002

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Leo, Scott
Sent: Tue, 5 Mar 2019 17:46:09 +0000
To: Zittle, Aleksandra P
Subject: Any chance to look at the Abizaid testimony I sent earlier?
Attachments: 20190228AbizaidTestimonyV4.docx

It's with the PDAS now.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

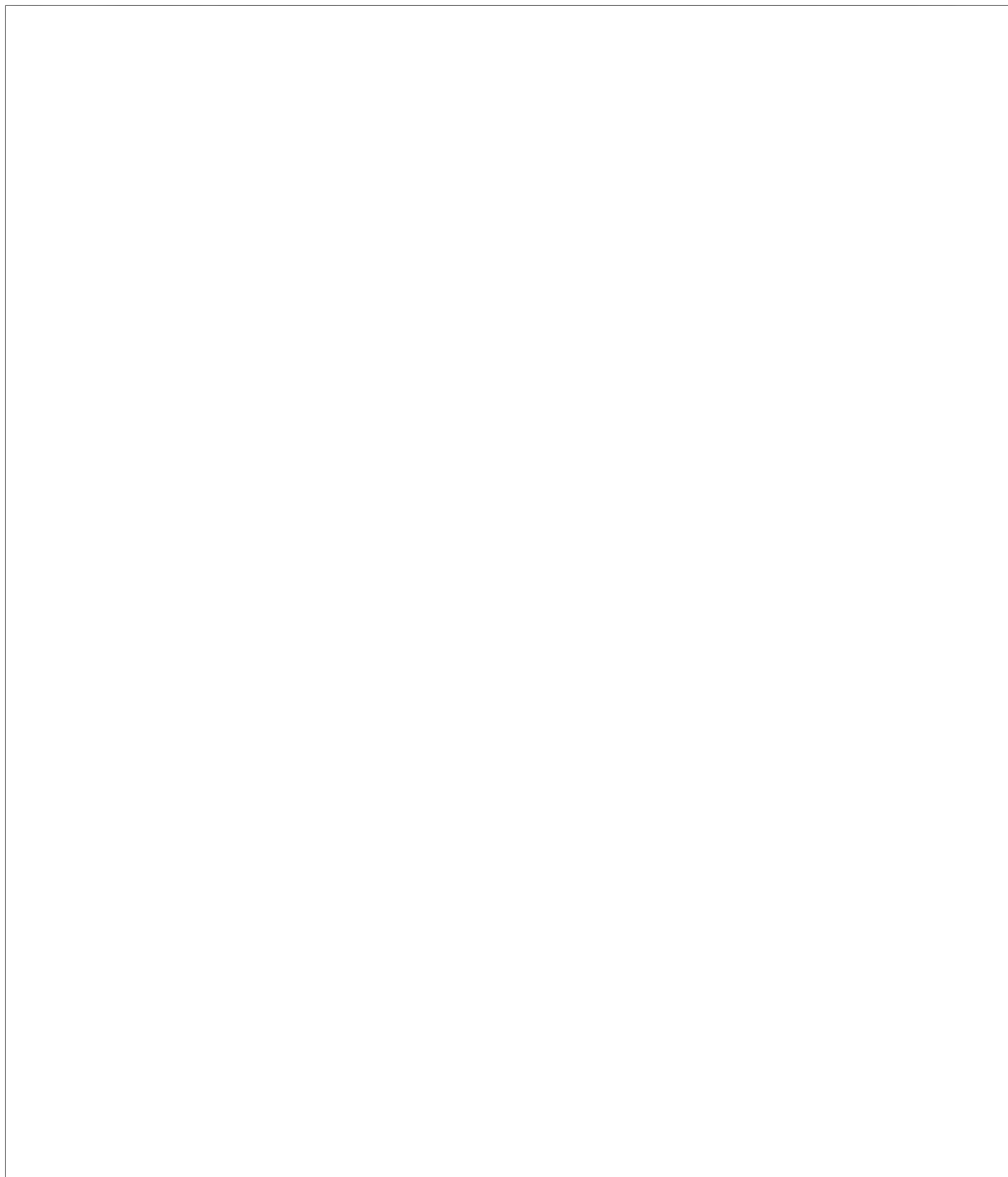
07424-IPS03-000003

RELEASE IN PART
B5, B6

1

Statement by John P. Abizaid
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
March 6, 2019

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Menendez, Members of the Committee:



B5

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B5

07424-IPS03-000008

Approved: NEA: Senior Bureau Official Joan Polaschik

Drafted: NEA/ARP: [redacted] ext. 7-7550 and cell: [redacted]

B6

Cleared: NEA/FO: TLenderking

B6

NEA/ARP: [redacted]

S/P: [redacted]

OK

D: [redacted]

No Response

P: [redacted]

No Response

H: [redacted]

OK

L/AN: [redacted]

OK

L/PM: [redacted]

OK

L/HRR: [redacted]

OK

NEA/PPD: [redacted]

Info by request

NEA/RMA: [redacted]

OK

CT/SCAN: [redacted]

OK

S/SECI: Clearances

No Response

07424-IPS03-000009

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Miller, Tiernen
Sent: Fri, 15 Feb 2019 14:48:38 +0000
To: Satterfield, David M;Lenderking, Timothy A;Pounds, Timothy J
Subject: Another Glomag/Khashoggi letter

Risch, Rubio, Johnson, Gardner, Graham, Isakson, Barrasso, Portman, Young, and Cruz
apparently sent this letter, but we haven't received it yet. This is letter #3.

The Honorable Mike Pompeo

Secretary

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street N.W.

Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to follow up on the Committee letter of October 10, 2018 to the President requesting a determination on the imposition of sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (Global Magnitsky Act) with respect to any foreign person responsible for the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and your response thereto.

As you know, the Global Magnitsky Act requires that the President, upon receipt of a request from the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, determine whether a foreign person is responsible for an extrajudicial killing of an individual exercising freedom of expression. The Global Magnitsky Act requires the President to report to the Committee within 120 days of the request with that

07424-IPS03-000018

determination and with a decision on the imposition of sanctions on the foreign person or persons responsible for the killing.

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 8, 2019 stating that the President has determined that indeed seventeen Saudi nationals were responsible for the death of Jamal Khashoggi.

We appreciate your ongoing efforts to brief the Committee on matters relating to the Khashoggi killing and U.S. policy with respect to Saudi Arabia, and we encourage such engagement. Our foreign policy is strongest when our two branches of government can work together. We further appreciate the President's imposition of sanctions on November 15, 2018 on seventeen Saudi nationals believed to be connected with the Khashoggi killing. We understand that the President sanctioned these individuals, many occupying high positions in the Royal Court and ministries of the Saudi government, under the authority provided in the Global Magnitsky Act. This action by the President is an important step forward in support of human rights. We understand that investigations are ongoing, and we request a classified briefing on the status of all these matters by the administration in a timely manner.

We ask that you update Congress, as requested in the Committee letter dated October 10, 2018 and required by the Global Magnitsky Act, on the President's determination with respect to any foreign person responsible for the Khashoggi murder, including with respect to the highest ranking officials in the Government of Saudi Arabia.

Sincerely,

07424-IPS03-000019

###

Tiernen Miller
Senior Congressional Advisor
Bureau of Legislative Affairs
Department of State
(202)647-8729

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

07424-IPS03-000020

RELEASE IN PART
B6

B6

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 31 Oct 2018 07:11:36 -0400
To: Strong, Martina A
Subject: For approval: Cable on Clerical Reactions to Khashoggi Announcement
Attachments: 18.10.31 Clerical Reactions to Khashoggi Announcement_revised.docx

DECONTROLLED

Martina,

The attached cable is for your approval.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Murphy, Sean X
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 2:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: For clearance: Revised - Clerical Reactions to Khashoggi Announcement

Clear with edits as noted.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 11:58 AM
To: Murphy, Sean X
Subject: For clearance: Revised - Clerical Reactions to Khashoggi Announcement

Sean,

Political's revised cable on clerical reaction to the Khashoggi case is attached for your clearance.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

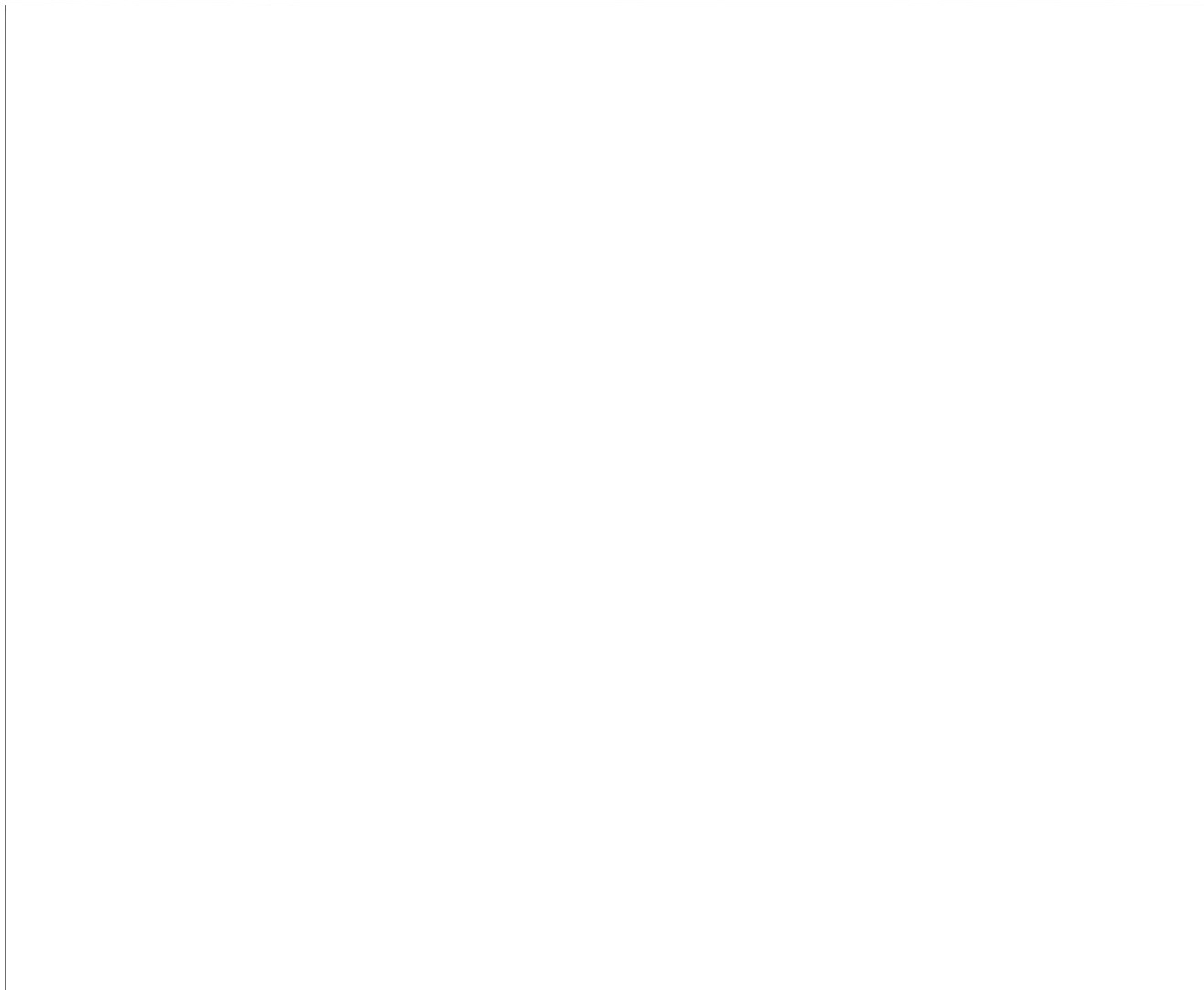
07424-IPS11-000133

Action: WashDC, SecState
Info: Arab League Collective
TAGS: PGOV, KPAO, KISL, SOCI, 2A, SA
REF: 18 Riyadh 767

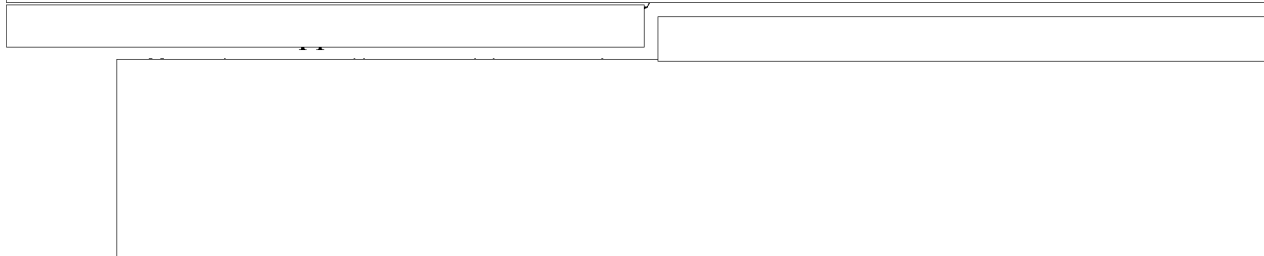
Classification derived
C06758976

RELEASE IN
PART B1,
B5,B6

Subject: Saudi Arabia: Religious Establishment Rallied to Support
Government in Aftermath of Khashoggi Killing



B5



B1
B5

07424-IPS11-000134

B1
B5

07424-IPS11-000135

Drafted By: POL:

Cleared By: POL:

PAS:

POL: Hop, Neil (ok)

ADCM: Murphy, Sean ()

Approved By: CDA: Strong, Martina ()

B6

07424-IPS11-000136

RELEASE IN PART
B6

From: Fontenrose, Kirsten B. EOP/NSC
Sent: Sat, 20 Oct 2018 01:31:03 +0000
To: Tim Lenderking (lenderkingta@state.gov); Pounds, Timothy J
Cc: Chris Henzel (HenzelCP@state.gov); Strong, Martina A (Sofia)
Subject: Email from KBS

Did you receive the same?

From: K Salman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2018 6:38 PM
To: Fontenrose, Kirsten B. EOP/NSC <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

B6

Dear Kirsten, I wanted to let you know that the Public Prosecutor issued a statement highlighting the investigation's preliminary results. Another statement by a senior official has been also issued. Both statements indicated that Jamal Khashoggi was killed in the consulate in an operation that was intended to negotiate his return to the Kingdom. 18 individuals who are responsible for the incident have been detained for further investigation. Further, a royal decree has been issued relieving a number of officials from their posts including the deputy president of GIP Ahmed Asiri, other senior intelligence officials, as well as Minister Saud Al Qahtani. I will provide you with more details on the ongoing investigation once I am back in Washington.
Khalid Bin Salman

07424-IPS09-000056

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 15 Nov 2018 13:10:49 -0500
To: Hop, Neil W; [REDACTED]
Bcc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FINAL REVIEW: PPO Announcement on Khashoggi Charges
Attachments: 18.11.15 PPO Announcement on Khashoggi Charges DCM.docx

RELEASE IN PART
B6

B6


With headers as requested.

[REDACTED] | Second Secretary | Political Officer | U.S. Embassy Riyadh
Office: +966-11-488-3800 Ext. [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED] | ✉: [REDACTED]

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

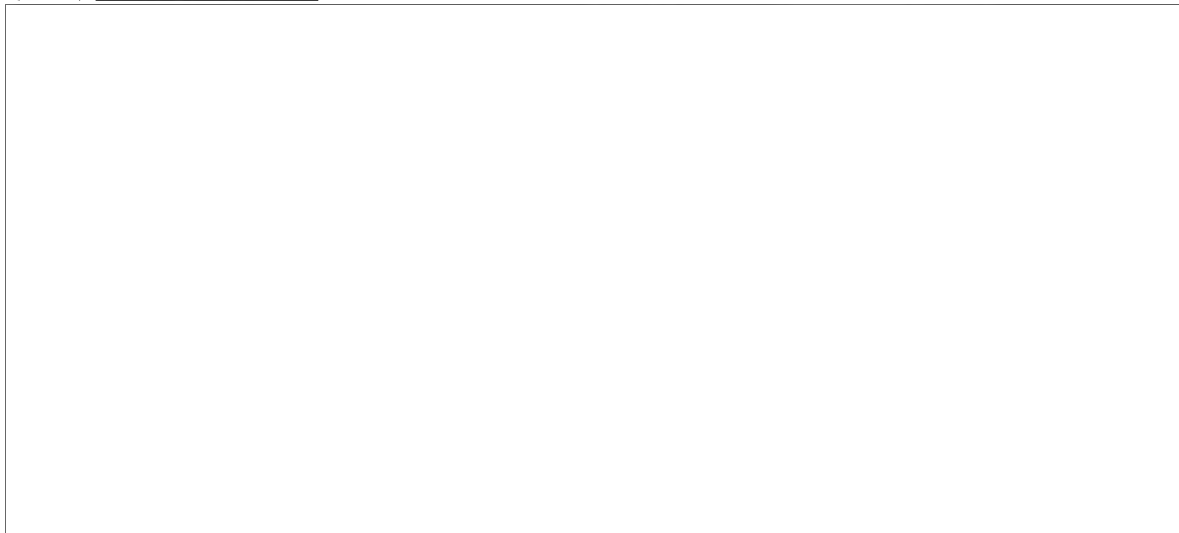
07424-IPS11-000001

RELEASE IN PART B5,B6



From: 
Sent: Mon, 22 Oct 2018 20:48:43 +0000
To: svcSMARTCrossLow_SMG

B6

(SBU) **Jamal Khashoggi:**



B5


Senior Saudi Arabia Desk Officer
Office of Arabian Peninsula Affairs
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs


B6

B6

07424-IPS01-000562

RELEASE IN
PART B5,B6

From: Hovenier, Jeffrey M
Sent: Thu, 15 Nov 2018 19:17:43 +0000
To: Nepal, Rohit S; Kim, Yuri J; Palmer, Matthew A
Cc: EUR-SE-TU-DL; [REDACTED] Marsh, Denise M; Weinhold, Scott; Baez, Alejandro X; Davis, Jennifer L; Thomas, Barbara M
Subject: (SBU) Re: White House weighs booting Erdogan foe from U.S. to appease Turkey

B6

Matt/Yuri/Ro: [REDACTED]

B5

[REDACTED]

B5

From: Nepal, Rohit S <NepalRS@state.gov>
Date: November 15, 2018 at 8:29:14 PM GMT+3
To: Hovenier, Jeffrey M <HovenierJM@state.gov>, Weinhold, Scott <WeinholdS@state.gov>, Marsh, Denise M <MarshDM@state.gov>, [REDACTED]
Cc: EUR-SE-TU-DL <EUR-SE-TU-DL@state.gov>
Subject: FW: White House weighs booting Erdogan foe from U.S. to appease Turkey

B6

Away Team – flagging this story; expect it might garner some attention your way. Ro

Rohit Nepal
Deputy Director, EUR/SE
nepalrs@state.gov

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Taubman, Geoffry L
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 12:20 PM
To: Belmonte, Monica L <BelmonteML@state.gov>; Borges, Manoela G <BorgesMG@state.gov>; Pederson, Troy E <PedersonTE@state.gov>; Mennuti, Deborah <Mennutid@state.gov>; Hay, Andrew W <HayAW@state.gov>; Canuel, Edward T <CanuelET@state.gov>; Norman, Marc E <NormanME@state.gov>; Nepal, Rohit S <NepalRS@state.gov>
Subject: White House weighs booting Erdogan foe from U.S. to appease Turkey

NBC news report

07424-IPS01-000582

https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/white-house-weighs-booting-erdogan-foe-u-s-appease-turkey-n933996?cid=sm_npd_nn_tw_ma

White House weighs booting Erdogan foe from U.S. to appease Turkey

Nov. 15, 2018 / 11:44 AM EST

By Carol E. Lee, Julia Ainsley and Courtney Kube

WASHINGTON — The White House is looking for ways to remove an enemy of Turkish President Recep Erdogan from the U.S. in order to placate Turkey over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, according to two senior U.S. officials and two other people briefed on the requests.

Trump administration officials last month asked federal law enforcement agencies to examine legal ways of removing exiled Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen in an attempt to persuade Erdogan to ease pressure on the Saudi government, the four sources said.

The effort includes directives to the Justice Department and FBI that officials reopen Turkey's case for his extradition, as well as a request to the Homeland Security Department for information about his legal status, the four people said.

They said the White House specifically wanted details about Gulen's residency status in the U.S. Gulen has a Green Card, according to two people familiar with the matter. He has been living in Pennsylvania since the late 1990s.

Career officials at the agencies pushed back on the White House requests, the U.S. officials and people briefed on the requests said.

"At first there were eye rolls, but once they realized it was a serious request, the career guys were furious," said a senior U.S. official involved in the process.

A spokesman for the National Security Council declined to comment. The FBI also declined to comment.

The State Department, Justice Department, the Department of Homeland Security did not respond to requests for comment.

07424-IPS01-000583

A lawyer representing Gulen declined to comment.

A Turkish official said the government does not link its concerns about the Khashoggi murder with Gulen's extradition case.

"We definitely see no connection between the two," the official said. "We want to see action on the end of the United States in terms of the extradition of Gulen. And we're going to continue our investigation on behalf of the Khashoggi case."

The secret effort to resolve one of the leading tensions in U.S.-Turkey relations – Gulen's residency in the U.S. – provides a window into how President Donald Trump is trying to navigate hostility between two key allies after Saudi officials murdered Khashoggi on October 2 at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul.

It suggests the White House could be looking for ways to contain Erdogan's ire over the murder while preserving Trump's close alliance with Saudi Arabia's controversial de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The kingdom, after initially denying having any role in Khashoggi's disappearance, reversed course and admitted that Saudi officials were responsible for the killing. On Thursday, Saudi Arabia's top prosecutor recommended the death penalty for five out of the 11 suspects charged with killing Khashoggi. A total of 21 suspects have been arrested in connection with the case, according to Saud al-Mojeb.

Erdogan, meanwhile, has kept the pressure up by leaking pieces of evidence and repeatedly speaking out to accuse Prince Mohammed of orchestrating the murder of Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and outspoken critic of the Saudi leadership.

Saudi Arabia is critical to Trump's Middle East policy. The White House's relationship with Prince Mohammed is key to Trump's goals of countering Iran and helping to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. Turkey is a NATO ally in possession of evidence about Khashoggi's murder that positions Erdogan to stoke international outrage over Riyadh's culpability in and cover-up of Khashoggi's murder.

07424-IPS01-000584

Erdogan has for years demanded the U.S. send Gulen back to Turkey. The Turkish leader accuses the elderly cleric of being a terrorist who was behind a failed coup against Erdogan's government in 2016. After the coup attempt, Ankara made a formal request to the U.S. for Gulen's extradition.

One option that Turkish and Trump administration officials recently discussed is forcing Gulen to relocate to South Africa rather than sending him directly to Turkey if extradition is not possible, said the U.S. officials and people briefed on the discussions. But the U.S. does not have any legal justification to send Gulen to South Africa, they said, so that wouldn't be a viable option unless he went willingly.

Trump and Erdogan also recently discussed another option to relieve tensions — the release of Turkish banker Mehmet Hakan Atilla, who was sentenced in May to 32 months in prison by a U.S. federal judge for his role in a scheme to evade U.S. sanctions against Iran, two people familiar with the discussion said. Erdogan has criticized the case against Atilla as a political attack aimed at undermining his government.

The U.S. and Turkey have been engaged in negotiations over a series of sensitive diplomatic issues over the past few months, including a deal for last month's release of an American pastor, Andrew Brunson, who was imprisoned in Turkey and an agreement for joint U.S. and Turkish military patrols in Manbij, Syria.

Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in the U.S. for almost two decades, denies any involvement in the failed coup in Turkey in 2016. A one-time ally of Erdogan, he's become an influential cleric with a wide network of followers known as "Gulenistas." His movement includes a host of non-profit organizations, businesses and schools, in the U.S., as well as South Africa. After Khashoggi's murder, Erdogan appeared to see an opportunity to ratchet up pressure on the Trump administration over Gulen, the U.S. officials and people familiar with the matter said.

Turkish officials made clear to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during his Oct. 17 meeting with Erdogan in Ankara that they wanted the Trump administration to turn over Gulen, the U.S. officials and people familiar with the matter said.

"That was their number one ask," said a person briefed on the meeting. Pompeo asked if Erdogan had new evidence of Gulen's involvement in the failed coup, prompting the Turkish leader to try to make the case that Gulen has terrorist ties, a senior U.S. official briefed on the meeting said.

07424-IPS01-000585

In remarks to reporters traveling with him, Pompeo acknowledged having discussed Gulen with the Turks. "We did talk about Fethullah Gulen and we talked about the set of issues surrounding that organization as well," Pompeo said. "It's something that the Turks remind us of often, and we're mindful of places that we can work with them to make sure that we all have a shared set of facts as well. But it's mostly not a State Department issue; it's mostly a Justice Department issue."

The Turkish official wouldn't discuss details of Erdogan's conversation with Pompeo but said: "The Gulen issue is a part of any diplomatic conversation that we're having with our American counterparts."

Pompeo, who also met with Saudi leaders in Riyadh on that same trip, briefed Trump on his discussions after returning to Washington.

The Trump administration later sent word to Erdogan that officials would reexamine the Gulen issue, the U.S. officials and people familiar with the matter said.

Justice Department officials responded to the White House's request saying the review of Turkey's case against Gulen two years ago showed no basis for his extradition and that no new evidence to justify it has emerged, the U.S. officials and others familiar with the requests said.

Trump administration officials then asked for other options to legally remove him, the U.S. officials and others said.

They said the White House specifically wanted details about the terms under which Gulen resides in the U.S. Officials from the law enforcement agencies informed the White House there is no evidence that Gulen has broken any U.S. laws, the U.S. officials and others familiar with the requests said.

The requests on Gulen in mid-October mark at least the second time the Trump administration has reexamined Turkey's extradition request since taking office. In the weeks after Trump's inauguration, the White House asked the Justice Department to review Gulen's case, NBC has reported.

Some officials have described the first request as a routine part of a new administration reviewing its relationship with a key ally. The request, however, took place under Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, whose ties to Turkey came under scrutiny in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election meddling. Flynn, who resigned in February 2017, entered into a plea agreement with Mueller last December and has been cooperating with the investigation.

Turkey provided boxes of materials to the U.S. in 2016 that Erdogan says shows Gulen was behind the failed coup. But officials at the Justice Department and FBI didn't find evidence that met the standard for extradition, which requires U.S. prosecutors to determine that someone committed crimes abroad that would also be illegal in the U.S.

Relations between U.S. and Turkey have been strained under Trump.

07424-IPS01-000586

Khashoggi's disappearance after entering Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul introduced new friction. Turkey publicly accused Saudi Arabia of flying in an assassination team to murder Khashoggi. The two countries have long been rivals.

Amid Saudi denials over Khashoggi's disappearance, Turkey ramped up international pressure on Riyadh by leaking its possession of evidence, including recordings from inside the consulate that Turkey officials say show the Saudi government murdered Khashoggi.

After nearly a month, Saudi Arabia admitted its government officials carried out a premeditated murder of Khashoggi. The government, though, has insisted Prince Mohammed knew nothing of it in advance. Some officials from the U.S. and other countries have said they believe otherwise.

Erdogan said this past weekend that he's given Turkey's audio recording of Khashoggi's murder inside the consulate to U.S., U.K., Saudi, French and German government officials. His comments were a public reminder of the evidence Erdogan could expose at a time of his choosing, if he wanted to put pressure on the U.S. or Saudi Arabia. .

John Bolton, Trump's national security adviser, said Tuesday that U.S. officials who listened to Turkey's recording assessed it does not implicate Prince Mohammed.

Saudi Arabia has yet to disclose the location of Khashoggi's remains, and Turkey continues to put public pressure on Riyadh.

Trump has expressed reluctance to respond too strongly given Saudi Arabia's economic and strategic value to the U.S. At a news conference last week, Trump said he is working with Turkey, Congress and Saudi Arabia to determine next steps and will have a "much stronger opinion" on Khashoggi's killing over the next week.

Following the Saudi prosecutor's announcement Thursday, the Treasury Department announced sanctions against 17 people for their suspected role in Khashoggi's murder.

The group includes Consul General Mohammed Alotaibi, who was in charge of the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, as well as senior Saudi officials and members of the suspected assassination team who arrived in Istanbul in the hours before Khashoggi disappeared.

The 17 were sanctioned under the Magnitsky Act, which bars foreign officials from entering the U.S. and freezes any assets they have in American banks.

Turkey, Europe, Russia, Former Soviet Union
Office of Analysis for Terrorism, Narcotics, and Crime
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

07424-IPS01-000587

U.S. Department of State
202-647-8318

07424-IPS01-000588

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Elneil, Hady T
Sent: Thu, 25 Oct 2018 15:47:42 +0000
To: NEA-IRAN-DL; NEA-ARP-Saudi Arabia Desk-DL; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Aylward, Kara E
Cc: [REDACTED]

B6

Subject: [Clearance by 4:00 pm Today] BCL for DAS Fisher's Meeting with Adam Bye
Attachments: Fisher Bye BCL 10312018.docx

Dear colleagues,

I would appreciate your clearance of the attached BCL for DAS Fisher's meeting with FCO Deputy Director for the Americas, Adam Bye by 4:00 pm today.

NEA/IR, I would appreciate your filling in the background for the Iran point as the most recent background we had was not suitable for an SBU document.

London: I am including you mainly FYI, but welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Best,

Hady

--

(Mr.) Hady Elneil | UK and Bermuda Desk Officer | EUR/WE
Tel: 202-647-6585
ElneilHT@state.gov

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

07424-IPS01-000589

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASE IN PART B5,B6

(U) DAS Fisher's Meeting with
FCO Americas Desk Deputy Director Bye
Wednesday, October 31, 2:30, 60 min
"Adam"

LAST INTERACTION: This is your first encounter with Adam.

PARTICIPANTS

United States

Julie Fisher

Anna Radivilova

Sarah Tatum, Control Officer

Name of Other Country/Organization

Adam Bye

TBD

KEY OBJECTIVES

<div></div>

NR

07424-IPS01-000590

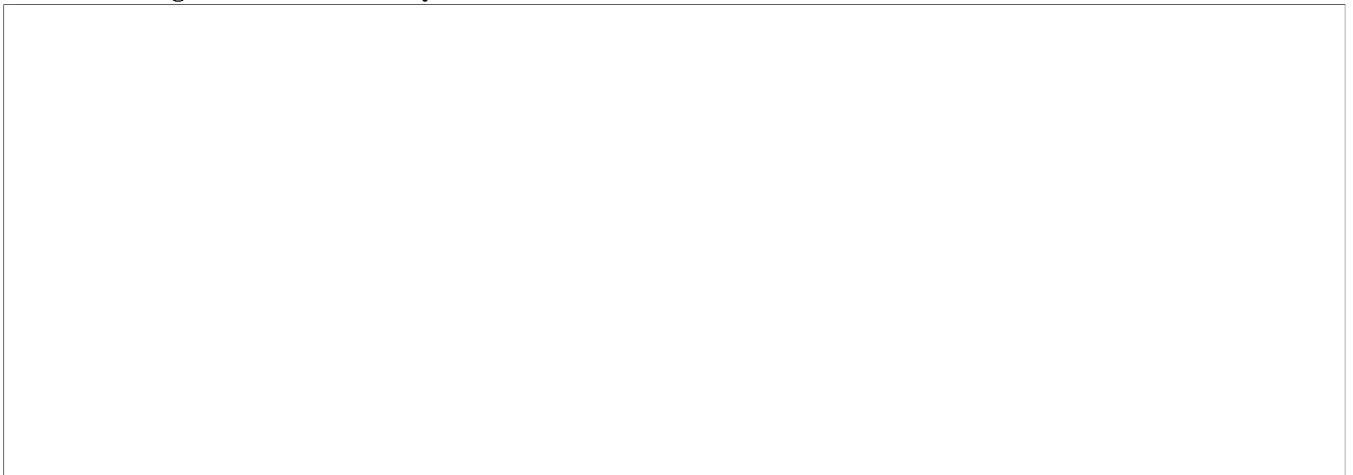
Sensitive But Unclassified

Sensitive But Unclassified

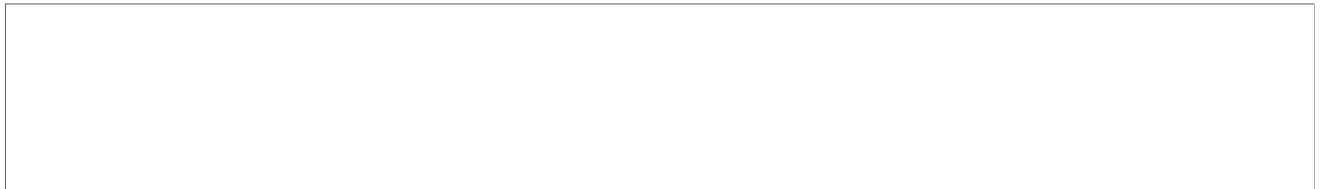
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-3-

Approved: EUR/WE:

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Drafted: EUR/WE , ext. 7-6585

B6

Cleared: EB

B6

NEA/ARP:

NEA/IR:

EUR/SE:

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U.S.-SAUDI ARABIA BILATERAL OVERVIEW



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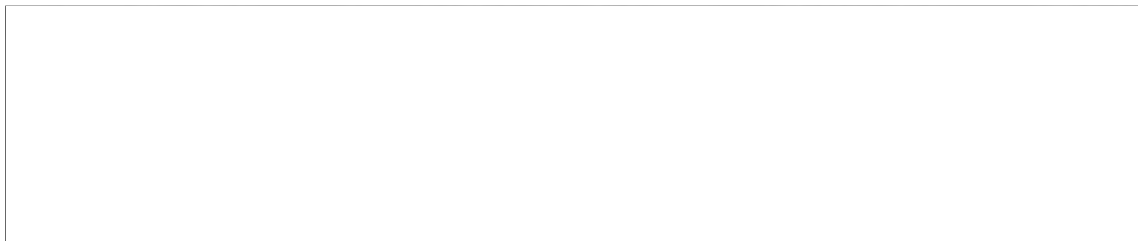
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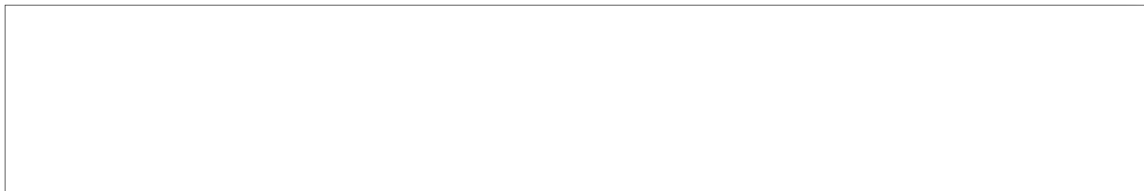
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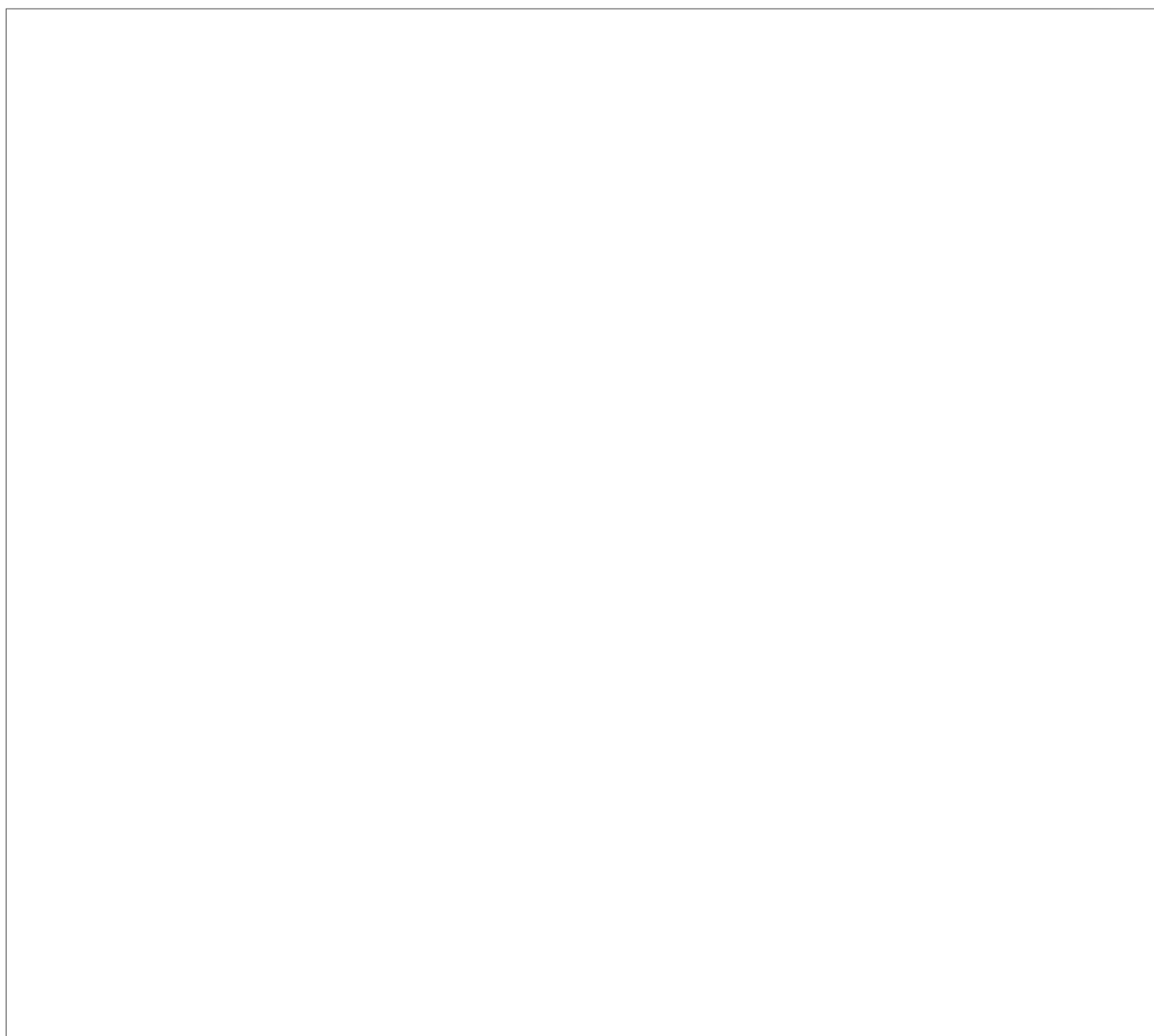
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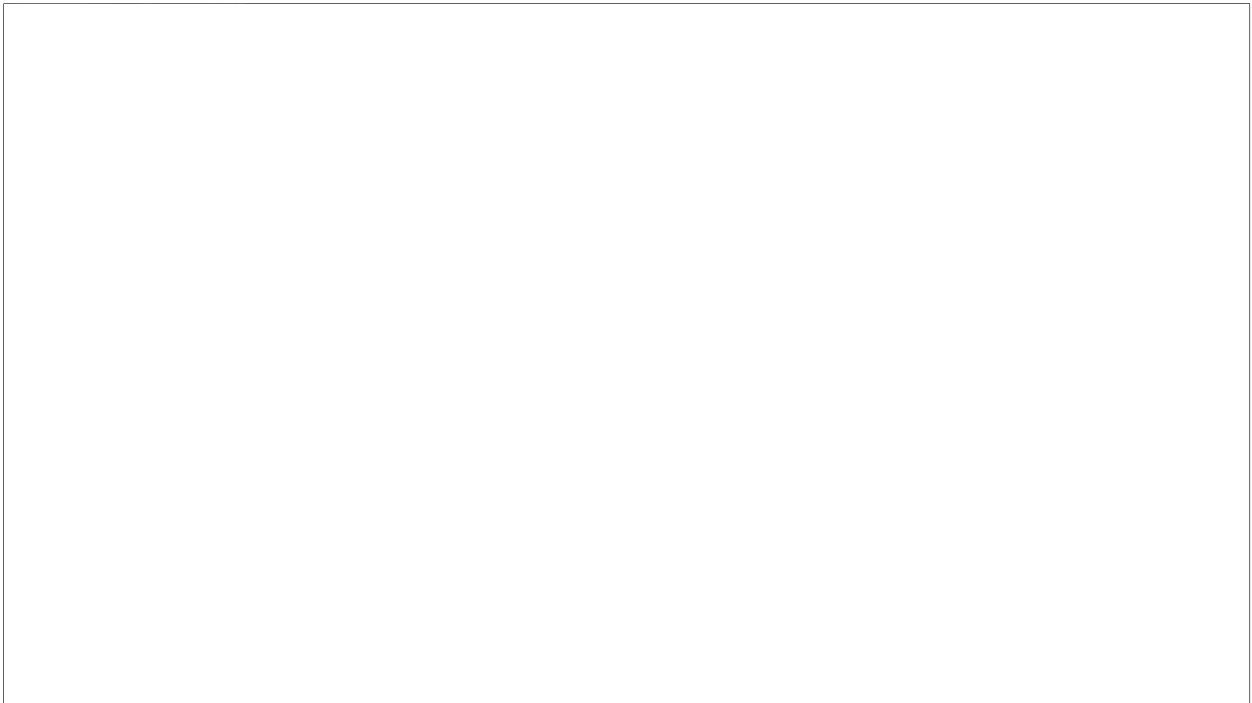
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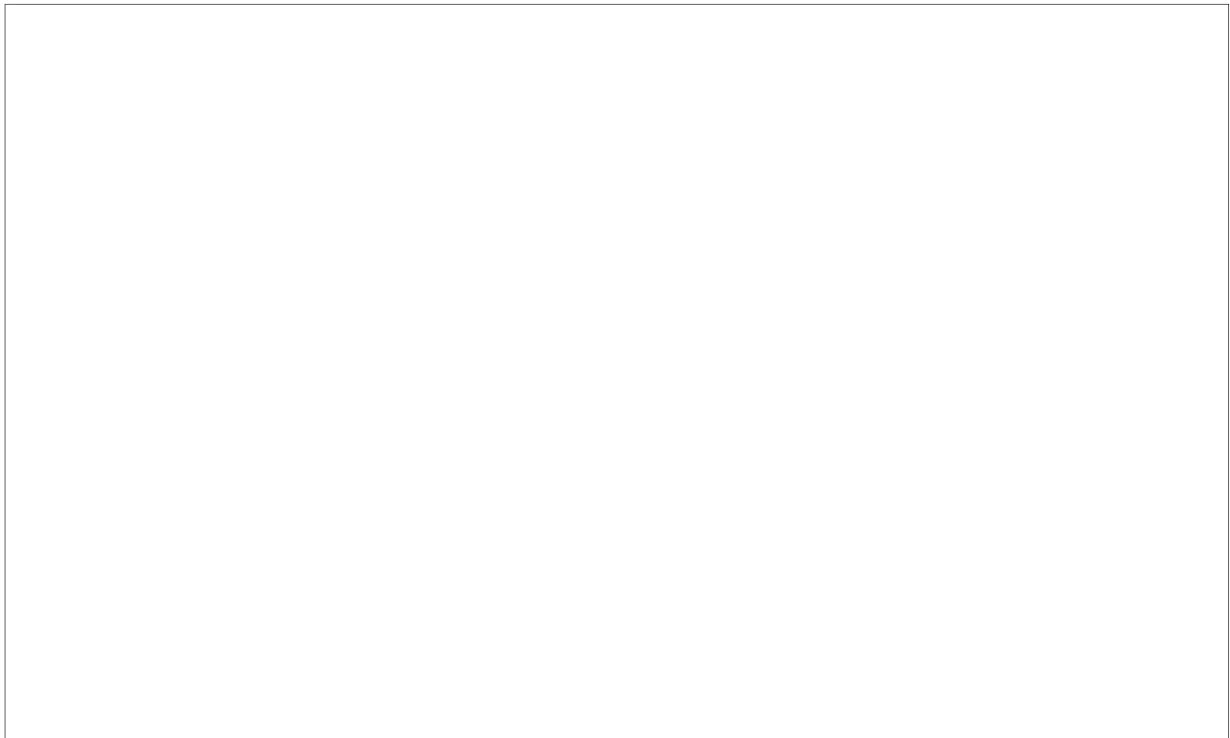
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Q&As for Ambassadorial Nominee General John Abizaid



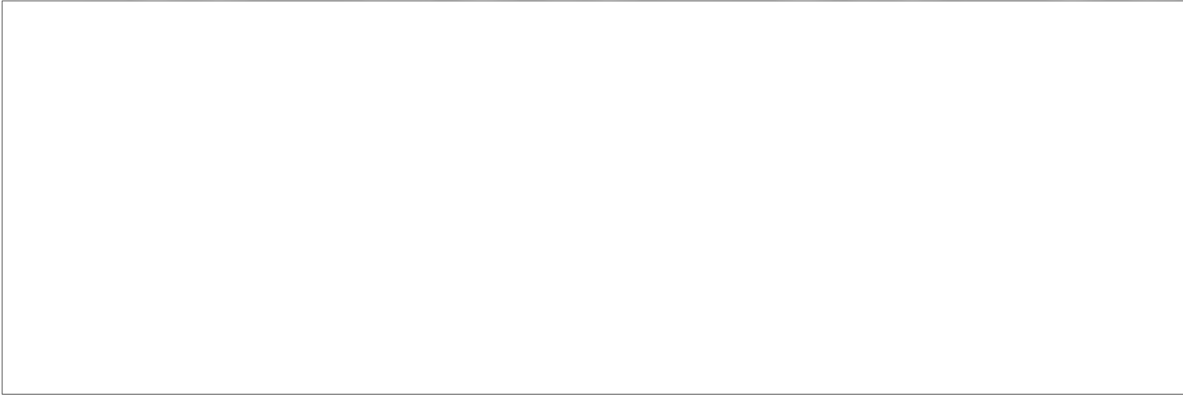
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Jamal Khashoggi



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07424-IPS01-000619

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 10 Oct 2018 20:05:14 +0000
To: Nepal, Rohit S
Subject: 10/10 Afternoon Update
Attachments: 10102018 Jamal Khashoggi Timeline.docx

**RESPONSIVE
MATERIAL
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PART B6**

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DECONTROLLED

Turkey

[REDACTED]

NR

Jamal Khashoggi Disappearance Timeline:

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

NR

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Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW, Rm. 5511

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07424-IPS01-000629

Washington, D.C. 20520

Email Address:

Phone Number:

B6

Official - SBU

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07424-IPS01-000630

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Strong, Martina A
Sent: Thu, 25 Oct 2018 13:11:19 +0000
To: Riyadh Staff Assistant
Subject: 18.10.25 FII report_dbb (002)
Attachments: 18.10.25 FII report_dbb (002).doc

DECONTROLLED

Just a few minor changes. Thanks.

Official - SBU

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CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

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Page 1 of 6

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN:
Date/DTG: Oct 25, 2018 / N/A
From: AMEMBASSY RIYADH
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
Captions: SENSITIVE
Subject: Davos in the Desert – MbS Calls for Justice, Touts Economic Success at Eastward-Looking FII

B5

CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

Printed By: Page 1 of 6

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07424-IPS01-000642

CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

Page 2 of 6

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CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

Printed By: Page 2 of 6

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CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified
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CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified
07424-IPS01-000645

Printed By: Page 4 of 6

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CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

Page 5 of 6

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CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

Printed By: Page 5 of 6

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Drafted By:
Cleared By:

Approved By:
Released By:
Info:

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Dissemination Rule:

Draft Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

Draft

CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified
07424-IPS01-000647

Printed By: Page 6 of 6

B6

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Strong, Martina A
Sent: Wed, 31 Oct 2018 16:48:54 +0000
To: Riyadh Staff Assistant
Subject: 18.10.31 Clerical Reactions to Khashoggi Announcement_revised
Attachments: 18.10.31 Clerical Reactions to Khashoggi Announcement_revised.docx

DECONTROLLED

Good to go with a few minor changes. Thanks.

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

07424-IPS01-000648

Classification derived
C06758976

RELEASE IN PART
B1, B5, B6

Action: WashDC, SecState
Info: Arab League Collective
TAGS: PGOV, KPAO, KISL, SOCI, 2A, SA
REF: 18 Riyadh 767

Subject: Saudi Arabia: Religious Establishment Rallied to Support
Government in Aftermath of Khashoggi Killing

B5

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B5

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B1
B5



07424-IPS01-000650

Drafted By: POL:

B6

Cleared By: POL: (ok)

PAS: (ok)

POL: (ok)

ADCM: ()

Approved By: CDA: ()

07424-IPS01-000651

RELEASE IN PART
B5,B3,B6

From: Hop, Neil W
Sent: Tue, 19 Feb 2019 09:19:26 +0000

To:

B3
B6

Cc:

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: URGENT: Input to Abizaid Qs and As by NOON
Attachments: 20190215AbizaidQsandAs_forclearance.docx,
BriefingBookCombined_forclearances.docx

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

With suggested edits for both documents.

From: Vidal-Sammoud, Vanessa LC <VidalSammoudVLC@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 11:20 AM

To:

B3
B6

Cc:

Subject: URGENT: Input to Abizaid Qs and As by NOON

Good morning colleagues,

Washington sent an updated Qs and As document with proposed answers to the list of questions you saw yesterday. Would you please quickly take a look and send my any input by noon? Please add track changes/comments to the attached document on top of PAS edits.

Thank you,

07424-IPS01-000001

Vanessa



Vanessa L. C. Vidal-Sammoud

Executive Office Staff Assistant

U.S. Embassy Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

VidalSammoudVLC@state.gov <Caution-Caution-mailto:VidalSammoudVLC@state.gov>

Office: +966-11-488-3800 Ext. 4106

Mobile:

Business Week: Sunday—Thursday; EDT +8

B6

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 12:41 PM

To:

B6

B3
B6

Cc:

Subject: FW: Abizaid Update + Briefing Materials

Importance: High

Colleagues,

I would appreciate your review of the attached documents. I marked my comments in the briefing paper. I added a couple of questions to the Qs and As document. Please send your changes by noon on Monday to Vanessa, who is sitting in for David — use the RiyadhStaffAssistant email address. Vanessa will collate all changes/additions and run it by Sean and me. Many thanks, Martina

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From:

Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 2:34 AM

B6

07424-IPS01-000002

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

B6

Subject: Abizaid Update + Briefing Materials

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

B5

[REDACTED] The current plan is for him to come back to HST on Thursday, February 21 for additional consultations and a murder board in preparation for meetings with SFRC staffers the following day.

In preparation for these engagements, we are endeavoring to complete briefing materials by COB Wednesday, February 20. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

We would greatly appreciate if you could clear on the briefing/issue papers by COB Tuesday EST.

As for the Q&As -- these are a work in progress, so we are sharing just the list of questions with you now for visibility. Once we've completed the answers, we'll include Post on our broad clearance request to various HST offices (this will likely take place on Monday).

Best,

[REDACTED]

B6

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RELEASE IN FULL

From: Lochbryn, Tracy (Riyadh)
Sent: Thu, 15 Nov 2018 11:54:36 -0500
To: Murphy, Sean X
Cc: Gassam Griffith, Geraldine B; Hop, Neil W; Otieno, Brigid A
Subject: 18.11.15 PPO Announcement on Khashoggi Charges
Attachments: 18.11.15 PPO Announcement on Khashoggi Charges.docx

Sean,

Here you go. Many thanks to Geraldine for the write-up. Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Tracy

07424-IPS01-000035

RELEASE IN PART B5,B6

Action: WashDC, SecState
Info: NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC; CIA WASHINGTON
DC; GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE; ARAB LEAGUE
COLLECTIVE
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, KCRM, TR, SA **DECONTROLLED**
Captions: SENSITIVE
Ref: 18 Riyadh 731
18 Riyadh 767
Subject: **Saudi Government Seeks Death Penalty for Five in Khashoggi
Murder**

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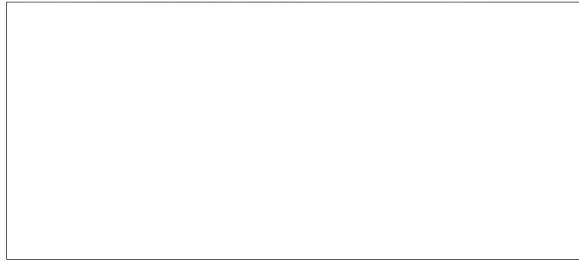


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Approved: MStrong, CDA ()

Drafted:

Cleared:



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RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Perdue, C. Darren
Sent: Thu, 25 Oct 2018 14:20:28 +0000
To: Strong, Martina A;Murphy, Sean X;NEA-ARP-Saudi Arabia Desk-DL
Cc: Riyadh ECON Staff;Riyadh Staff Assistant
Subject: Davos in the Desert - MbS Calls for Justice, Touts Economic Success at Eastward-Looking Fil
Attachments: image001.gif

Forwarding our cable on the Fil, which just went out. Thanks, Darren

Darren Perdue
 Deputy Economic Counselor/Energy Officer
 Embassy of the United States
 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
 +966 (0)11-488-3800, extension 4349
PerdueCD@state.gov

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DECONTROLLED

From: SMART Core
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:14 PM
To: Perdue, C. Darren <PerdueCD@state.gov>
Subject: Davos in the Desert - MbS Calls for Justice, Touts Economic Success at Eastward-Looking Fil

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~~-SBU-~~



Action Office: RID_FCS_ACT, RID_POL_ACT, RID_CONS_ACT, RID_OPMMOI_INF, RID_PAO_INF, RID_ECON_ACT, POL, SCIENCE, ECON, LABOR
Info Office: ECON_LES_INFO, AIDEX_INFO

MRN: 18 RIYADH 1166
Date/DTG: Oct 25, 2018 / 251413Z OCT 18
From: AMEMBASSY RIYADH
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: ECON, EINT, EINV, EFIN, ENRG, ECIN, ELAB, BTIO, PGOV, PREL, PHUM, KWMN, TSPL, TRGY, 2M, GCC, 6P, TR, QA, SA
Captions: SENSITIVE
Subject: Davos in the Desert - MbS Calls for Justice, Touts Economic Success at Eastward-Looking Fil

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Note: Embassy Riyadh staff did not attend the FII, per Department guidance. This report is comprised of information from contacts, the conference's livestream feed, press releases, and media reports.

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **Summary:** Despite the long shadow cast by the international furor over Jamal Khashoggi's death, the Saudi Arabian government (SAG) soldiered on with its Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh October 23-25, designed to bring together global economic leaders and showcase investment opportunities in the Kingdom. Marked by a wave of high-profile cancellations of sponsors, speakers, and attendees, Saudi leaders filled seats at the Ritz-Carlton by reaching out to friendly regional countries to urge them, with some apparent success, to organize large, last-minute delegations. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) told FII attendees that Khashoggi's death was "a heinous crime that cannot be justified," and said the perpetrators would be brought to justice. He also touted the Kingdom's strong economic performance, claimed the Middle East was entering a 30-year renaissance, and said his "personal war" is to put the region at the "forefront of the world." During the FII, a long list of "mega deals" was announced totaling \$50 billion in the energy, mining, and transportation sectors; several deals were with major U.S. companies. China and Russia featured prominently, with a session on the shift of investments from "west to east," and the frequent use of Chinese and Russian speakers and panelists. While there was standing room only at both the opening and during MbS' remarks, contacts and observers noted that, in contrast to last year, Saudis significantly outnumbered foreigners. **End Summary.**

Acknowledgment of Khashoggi's Death and Need for Justice, Then Calls to Move On

2. ~~(SBU)~~ Though widely expected to open the conference, MbS first appeared during the afternoon of the FII's opening day, October 23. Contacts told EconOffs that a number of attendees left their seats in the auditorium at Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton to greet MbS as he entered the room. The Crown Prince had a broad smile and stopped to take several selfies with conference attendees, while receiving a standing ovation. When MbS appeared the following day (October 24) to participate in a Q&A session, he was warmly welcomed again. Press reports indicated that cheers could be heard in the auditorium as he entered. In his remarks during the joint Q&A session with Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri, MbS first addressed Jamal Khashoggi's death, saying the crime was "painful to all Saudis and every human in the world," and claiming that "all due legal processes" were being carried out to "find the truth and bring the perpetrators to justice." He denied any tensions with Turkey, emphasizing that the efforts by "many" to drive a wedge between Saudi Arabia and Turkey would not succeed. MbS said that Saudi Arabia's security institutions needed to be restructured, just as the SAG had significantly restructured the economy. [Note: MbS' remarks were preceded by a highly publicized call between MbS and Turkey's President Erdogan, their first conversation since Khashoggi's killing. End Note.]

3. ~~(SBU)~~ Earlier in the conference, Lubna Olayan, the newly named Chairperson of SABB

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Bank and one of the wealthiest and most prominent women in the Middle East, spoke briefly about Khashoggi's death, expressing support for Saudi leadership. She said "the terrible acts reported in recent weeks are alien to our culture and our DNA," and voiced confidence that the Saudi leaders and government would ensure the "truth [emerges]." Khalid al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources, said these were "difficult days for us in Saudi Arabia," and that the Kingdom was going through a crisis resulting from the "very regrettable and abhorrent incident that took place in Turkey." Al-Falih also said that while "no one... can justify or explain" Khashoggi's death, he emphasized that the Kingdom is in the "midst of a historic transformation of unprecedented proportions...(and) that will not be stopped." Amin Nasser, CEO of Saudi Aramco, told CNN that "everybody is sorry for the death (of Khashoggi)," but quickly followed by saying "...at the end of the day, we need to move beyond it."

MbS Points to Economic Success, Claims Middle East Entering 30-Year Renaissance

4. ~~(SBU)~~ Citing Dubai as the model of success, MbS said its ruler Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum "set the example" for how the Middle East can succeed economically. [Note: The Sheikh attended the FII and was seated in the front row during MbS' remarks. End Note.] By doing so, he said, the Sheikh had encouraged all the countries of the region to achieve their goals. MbS pointed to the successful reforms in Saudi Arabia, highlighting strong economic growth and government revenues, improvements unemployment, development of new economic sectors, and growth of the Public Investment Fund, which he said could increase from \$315 billion today to \$500 billion by the end of 2019. The Crown Prince also mentioned economic successes in Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan – and even Qatar, which he said has a strong economy. MbS closed by saying it was his "personal war" to change the Middle East and put it at the "forefront of the world." Several contacts who attended the conference told Embassy Officers that the audience, comprised of many Saudi and Middle Eastern attendees, responded with strong emotion and pride to MbS' remarks. MbS' claim that the region was entering a 30-year renaissance and would be the "New Europe" brought a standing ovation from the overflowing auditorium.

Saudis Scramble to Keep FII On-Course after High-Profile Cancellations

5. ~~(SBU)~~ In the final tally, at least 68 high-profile leaders from government, business, finance, and the media publicly cancelled their participation in the FII, due to concerns over Jamal Khashoggi's death. In the days leading up to the conference, Saudi leaders were pushing for business and government leaders to confirm their attendance. According to a senior executive with a Fortune 500 American electrical products manufacturer, the company's CEO was contacted less than a week before the FII by a senior Saudi businessperson to personally invite him to attend, while insisting that only the CEO could participate. In response to a question from the media about companies cancelling, Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said that "the (companies) we're doing business with are here." Observers noted that a number of gulf country leaders issued public statements expressing support for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the FII ahead of the conference, with very similar talking points.

6. ~~(SBU)~~ Despite these efforts, high-profile cancellations continued. On the opening day of the

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conference, CEO of SoftBank Masayoshi Son cancelled his speech and withdrew from the conference. [Note: Given the timing, this appears to have been a difficult decision for the CEO, as Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) is the largest investor in SoftBank's \$100 billion Vision Fund; the PIF has committed \$45 billion to the fund. End Note.] *Bloomberg* reported on the day of the opening that Siemens CEO Joe Kaeser also withdrew from the conference, during which he was scheduled to sign a power-plant contract worth up to \$20 billion. And Embassy contacts who attended the conference noted that programs were neither distributed nor communicated, and that all details on the FII's website, which had earlier been successfully hacked (see paragraph 12), had been removed the morning the conference opened.

7. ~~(SBU)~~ Some companies that attended the FII publicly defended their decision. The CEO of French energy company Total defended his participation, saying that "we see what partnership means when you have difficult times; this is when you really strengthen a partnership." Total signed several agreements during the conference, including construction of a petrochemical plant and development of retail gasoline stations. *The Washington Post* reported that in its interviews at the conference with American companies, executives said although they were "jolted by Khashoggi's gruesome killing," they emphasized that "business ties between the United States and Saudi Arabia are far too valuable to be disrupted by it," and that although the Khashoggi case was "shocking... ultimately it would be only a hiccup in the business world." A senior Vice President with Singapore's sovereign wealth fund told EconOffs that she decided to attend primarily to assess the fallout from Khashoggi's death.

\$50 Billion Flurry of So-Called "Mega Deals" Include American Companies

8. ~~(SBU)~~ For nearly two hours, a long list of so-called "mega deals" was announced at the FII, representing a purported \$50 billion in the energy, mining, and transportation sectors. U.S. companies were among those signing MOUs and commercial agreements, including Halliburton, Baker Hughes GE, Schlumberger, Air Products and Chemicals, FlexSteel Pipelines, National Oilwell Varco, and Greenbrier Companies. Two-thirds of the stated value of the deals (\$34 billion) were signed by Saudi Aramco, and include new petrochemical plants, retail gasoline stations, refineries, a gasification power project, manufacture of onshore oil rigs, and new drilling equipment and installation. According to Saudi Aramco, the agreements – with firms from France, China, United States, Japan, UAE, United Kingdom, South Korea, and India – will support the company's downstream, offshore, and engineering business units. Other deals announced promised to develop a wide-range of projects, including copper mines, a high speed railway, maritime industries, and a \$10.6 billion railway land-bridge to connect the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf ports, among others. In support of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 strategy, FII moderators announced that several of these projects will involve localization, in particular an expansion of the manufacturing base in Saudi Arabia.

Deliberate Message that Saudi Arabia is Looking Eastward for Investment

9. ~~(SBU)~~ The Saudi Arabian government (SAG) sent very clear messages at the FII that it is looking "eastward" for foreign direct investment. Despite the number of western companies signing agreements (see para 5) with Saudi Aramco and SAG ministries, much of the conference featured China and Russia. The FII's opening panel included Yasir al-Rumayyan,

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head of the FII's sponsor PIF, as well as Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of Russian Direct Investment Fund, the country's sovereign wealth fund. Dmitriev noted that more than 20 executives from Russian banks and energy companies attended the FII, and said that in the last three years, a number of joint Russian-Saudi projects had been launched with a value of \$10 billion. In an interview with CNBC, Dmitriev said that Khashoggi's death should be viewed as "separate" from Saudi leaders. Dmitriev met with Crown Prince MbS on the margins of the FII to discuss bilateral investment and other economic issues, according to the Saudi Press Agency. Other prominent Russian attendees included Sergey Gorkov, Russia's Deputy Minister of Economic Development, and Andrey Kostin, President and Chairman of VTB Bank.

10. ~~(SBU)~~ A session during the FII's opening day focused on the "geographic shift of investments from west to east," and included panelists from the UAE, Bank of China Intl/Hong Kong, Softbank, and DP World UAE. Panelists claimed that investments from Asia are "catching up" to the United States, with Asia recording a 117 percent increase in total venture capital funding in 2017. The Saudi moderator noted that investors in the East have a "better understanding" of Saudi Arabia's characteristics and goals. Like their Russian counterparts, Chinese speakers and panelists featured prominently. In addition, the Minister of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources signed an agreement with Chinese company Panasia to develop a petrochemicals complex in Jizan, Saudi Arabia.

Conference Atmospherics

11. ~~(SBU)~~ The conference opened with a slick, multi-media presentation with loud music, lasers, and videos on large, high-definition screens. A voiceover said "the next generation of game changers is here, in this room," and mentioned previous "dreamers" such as Marie Curie, Thomas Edison, and Mark Zuckerberg. Under every seat in the auditorium was a large hardcover book entitled "A Blueprint for the Twenty Second Century." Contacts told EconOffs that, unlike last year's premiere FII, at this year's event Saudis significantly outnumbered foreigners. A *Bloomberg* reporter noted that as the first day progressed, the main auditorium was "slowly deserted." He posted a short video of a nearly-empty auditorium, saying it showed the impact of many foreign investors not attending. Reflecting the increasing importance the Kingdom places on women in the workforce, a number of female moderators and panelists participated, such as Nadine Hani from *Al Arabiya*.

FII Website Hacked, Anti-Regime Photo and Message Posted

12. ~~(SBU)~~ The evening before the opening, the FII website was hacked and, for a brief period of time, featured a photo of MbS holding a sword over Jamal Khashoggi. Part of the accompanying caption read "For the sake of security for children worldwide, we urge all countries to put sanction(s) on the Saudi regime." The FII website was subsequently taken offline, only to reappear the following morning with all content having been removed. Only the livestream feeds (in English and Arabic) remained. Within one hour of the conference's opening, the livestream and website were again shut down; they were not restored until just before noon, two hours later.

Comment

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13. ~~(SBU)~~ In recognition of the symbolic importance of the FII to his Vision 2030 reforms, Crown Prince MbS soldiered through all the controversy in recent weeks to create the appearance of “business as usual.” Despite the rhetoric of the FII’s shift eastward, a number of American companies signed agreements with Saudi Aramco. As with all of the “mega deals” announced at the FII, it is difficult to determine how the \$50 billion figure was calculated or exactly what each MOU or commercial agreement entails. One business contact indicated that his firm’s deal was “real, but already in the works.” From post’s perspective, the jury is still out on how the international investment community will judge this year’s FII. What is clear thus far is that the SAG and Saudi business leaders pulled out all the stops in an effort to make the conference – and the Crown Prince – appear successful. **End Comment.**

Signature: STRONG

Drafted By: RIYADH: [REDACTED]
Cleared By: POL: [REDACTED]
 CONS: [REDACTED]
 ECON: [REDACTED]
Approved By: EXEC/LEG [REDACTED]
Released By: RIYADH [REDACTED]

Info: NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; CIA WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*

Action Post: NONE
Dissemination Rule: RID_FCS_ACT, RID_POL_ACT, RID_CON_ACT, RID_OPMMOI_INF, RID_PAO_INF, RID_ECON_ACT, POL, SCIENCE, ECON, ECON_LES_INFO, LABOR, AID_EXEC_Info

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